Daily Report

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Government To Adhere to Nonproliferation Treaty

AU1708091590 Tirana ATA in English 1726 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tirana, 16 Aug (ATA)—The Presidium of the People's Assembly of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania decided by decree the adherence of our country to the nucelar weapons' non-proliferation treaty. The instruments of adherance will be soon deposited at the governments of the USA, the Soviet Union, England which are depository parties of the treaty.

This treaty, in which 140 states participate, envisages engagement in non-proliferation of the atom weapons and the adoption of effective measures to stop the nuclear armaments' race.

Refugees Seek Visas at U.S. Embassy in Paris

AU1508175990 Paris AFP in English 1753 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Paris, 15 Aug (AFP)—About 30 Albanian refugees gathered outside the U.S. Embassy here Wednesday [15 August], in an attempt to obtain a visa to emigrate to the United States.

The embassy was closed for the Assumption Day holiday, but the Albanians, from a centre at Emance near Paris, ignored police requests to move on.

Sixty Albanians are at Emance, and all want to emigrate to the United States, as do most of the 550 Albanians who have arrived here after fleeing their country one month ago.

The French Solidarity Ministry, responsible for the refugees' welfare, said Wednesday that it was meeting with "incomprehension" from the Albanians who failed to understand the complex and lengthy emigration process.

Minister Mustaqi Speaks on Anniversary of Navy

AU1608124390 Tirana ATA in English 0814 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tirana, 16 Aug (ATA)—On occasion of the 45th anniversary of the creation of the Navy various activities were conducted in the "N" unit in Durres on August 15.

Present were also the member of the Political Bureau of the party Central Committee and minister of the people's defence, Comrade Kico Mustaqi; the first secretary of the District Party Committee, Nazim Skuqi, and other comrades.

Comrade Kico Mustaqi greeted those present and on behalf of the general commander of the Armed Forces of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, Comrade Ramiz Alia, and wished them other successes for the country's defence.

He stressed among others that the Navy as an inseparable part of our People's Army, is a deed of the party and Comrade Enver Hoxha. The founding of this important weapon immediately after the people's revolution, was another factor to strengthen the defensive potential of our homeland and to guarantee the freedom attained through blood and numerous sacrifices. Over these four decades and a half, he said, whole generations of capable maritime cadres and seamen, educated with the Marxist-Leninist ideology of our party, who claim distinction for unshakeable loyalty to it, have militated in the Navy. Worth mentioning is the work performed by the marines, cadres, and working people of this weapon to put into life the decisions of the 9th, 10th, and 11th plenums of the party CC [Central Committee] for the further democratization of our country and society.

In conclusion, Comrade Kico Mustaqi voiced his conviction that as always, the marines and cadres of the Navy will exert all efforts and energies to resolutely implement in every situation the party directives and the precious teachings of our general commander, Comrade Ramiz Alia.

In this context various activities, as meetings and talks with veterans of this weapons, artistic programs as well as topic parties were also organised in Vlore, Sarande, and Shengjin. Here it was spoken in the 45-year-old road of the Navy.

ATA, Cuba's PRENSA LATINA Sign Accord

AU1608123590 Tirana ATA in English 0812 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Tirana, 15 Aug (ATA)—The agreement between the Albanian Telegraphic Agency, ATA, and the news agency of Cuba "PRENSA LATINA" was signed in Havana. The agreement was signed by Taqo Zoto, director of ATA, and Pedro Margolles, general director of "PRENSA LATINA" agency.

Present in the signing ceremony was also the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the PSR [People's Socialist Republic] of Albania in Cuba, Clirim Cepani.

'Recriminations,' 'Insults' Mark Assembly Session

AU1608185590 Sofia BTA in English
1734 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 16 Aug (BTA)—The M.P's today empowered the chairman of the Grand National Assembly to bar from a sitting a member who has gone too far in his strong language.

The latest in a series of rows between the Socialist majority and the opposition broke out over the statement of Mr. Aleksandur Yordanov M.P. of the Radical Democratic Party. In the debate on the report of the Prime Minister Mr. Andrey Lukanov, Mr. Yordanov leashed out against Bulgaria's full economic dependence on the Soviet Union and said that "Bulgaria's road to Europe does not pass through Moscow."

Interrupting the debate, Mr. Georgi Tambuev M.P. of the Socialist Party, a journalist working for the BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] daily "Duma," took the floor and said that many people in parliament "need to see a psychiatrist." The opposition took offense. What followed was yet another exchange of recriminations and insults. Many opposition M.P.'s walked out. Then came a break, mutual explanations and later on apologies.

Mr. Petur Beron M.P., leader on the opposition, said that the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) distances itself from cases in which Socialist M.P.'s have been roughed up near parliament building. However, he blamed provocateurs for many of those cases.

The question of Bulgaria's foreign policy cropped up in the debate on the government report today. Beside the opposition is criticism about Bulgaria's dependence on the Soviet Union, the prevalent opinion was that Mr. Andrey Lukanov's government did not take a wrong step in the defense of national interests, did not miss an opportunity for contacts and created conditions for continuity in foreign policy. Mr Lukanov was criticized for failing to elaborate on Bulgaria's relations with the Balkan countries in his report.

The M.P's again divided in their approval and disapproval of the report.

"To me, what matters most is to start forming a new government and to discuss its platform rather than talking of bygones," Mrs. Klara Marinova M.P., spokeswoman for the socialists' parliamentary faction, told the BTA.

According to Mr. Stoyan Ganev M.P. spokesman for the SDS faction, the three opposition economists Mr. Ivan Pushkarov M.P., Mr. Venteselav Dimitrov M.P. and Mr. Ivan Kostov M.P. made the most constructive statements because they made a special point of what Mr. Lukanov failed to do in the six months of his term. "It is very important," Mr. Ganev said, "before going ahead with the formation of a new government, to know everything so as to avoid the fatal flaws which the Lukanov cabinet committed," Mr. Ganev emphasized.

The debate on the government report will go on tomorrow.

BSP Council Schedules Party Congress for 22 Sep

AU1608131890 Sofia BTA in English
1246 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 16 Aug (BTA)—The 39th Congress of the Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP) will open on September 22 this year. This decision was made at the plenum of the BSP Supreme Council which ended early this morning. The 14th Extraordinary Congress was held at the end of January 1990, and at that time the party still had its former name of Bulgarian Communist Party. The change in the running number of the forthcoming congress is due to the fact that a reference is made to the social democratic period of the party.

At his request General Atanas Semerdzhiev was relieved of his post in the BSP Supreme Council, the reason for the request being his election to the vice presidency of the country.

The BSP Supreme Council revoked its decision by which Petur Mladenov was relieved of his post in the council after he was elected president and decided to restore the former president to his membership in the BSP Supreme Council and in the Presidium.

Representatives of all ideological platforms in the BSP will be on the commission which is to work out the platform of the Socialist Party.

This information was given to BTA representatives by a BSP spokesman.

According to the report published in DUMA, the "platform for the further renewal of the BSP and its transformation into a modern left party of democratic socialism" was the focus of the discussions at the plenum.

DUMA writes that BSP leader Aleksandur Lilov stated that in essence the BSP platform is a political programme for the transformation of the party and underlined that "we are categorically against a split of the BSP."

Comparison of BSP, Opposition Views of 'Crisis'

AU1508155690 Sofia TRUD in Bulgarian
13 Aug 90 p 2

[Valentin Suykov article: "The Crucial Step Lies Ahead"]

[Text] The parliamentary debate last Friday [10 August] on the government's report was expected to provide an indicator of the guidelines to be followed in the further work of the Grand National Assembly, from which the voters expect the formation of a strong and effective government.

The seriousness of the problems under discussion acted as an effective filter for the amateur performances, which we frequently have witnessed on the rostrum of parliament.

The small but well-prepared and lively team of economic experts from the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] fulfilled its task of providing the required antithesis to the prime minister's theses. The most difficult step—the synthesis of the two—still lies ahead.

Few of the deputies or the economists outside parliament have a complete understanding of the depth and complexity of the crisis, or of the narrow and winding paths which can lead us out of the crisis. For this reason, the numerous deputies who have requested to speak are hardly likely to introduce dramatic novelties in the debates. It may even be assumed that the greatest contribution some of the speeches will offer towards quickly adopting a clear course of action will be their brevity.

When he formed his cabinet, Andrey Lukanov was obligated to haphazardly choose from the members who remained after the departure of his predecessors. Even now, the reforming leadership of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] is paying a heavy tribute for its election compromises with the nomenklatura. The BSP members of parliament are showing that it is easier for them to win election victories than parliamentary skirmishes. In order to change from a potential into an actual prime minister of a decisive and bold government, Andrey Lukanov must openly dissociate himself from most of his previous team. The people and their parliamentary representatives must hear which of the first three speeches he would support on behalf of the BSP. Let us keep this in mind.

From the National Assembly rostrum, Stoyo Dulev demonstrated the limited technocratic capabilities contained in real socialism. Georgi Pirinski hinted at the reserves available in the BSP's younger generation—proof that the most valuable things are usually matters of common sense, but few people have an inkling of this. Atanas Ganev reminded us of the fact that the spirit and mentality of the times which we thought had irrevocably disappeared into the past continue to waft around us.

The minireports of the three members of the SDS Council of Economic Experts were just as significant. They shared a common starting point and pursued a common, predetermined goal. It is of no small importance, however, which of the three approaches will gain the upper hand in the final analysis: the elegant, constructive, and critical logic of Ivan Pushkarov; the dynamic power of Ventsislav Dimitrov, whose high-speed delivery took nothing away from the value of his pitiless analysis; or the ideology-ridden and dogmatic approach of Ivan Kostov.

After the encouraging start, the time is approaching for Andrey Lukanov to take the crucial step; namely, to expound in detail his views on the future policy and to name the people who, in his view, are the best ones to implement this policy.

Zhelev Confers High Award on U.S. Ambassador

AU1608132490 Sofia BTA in English
1258 GMT 16 Aug 90

["Bulgaria - United States: Very Good Relations"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 16 Aug (BTA)—Today President Zhelyu Zhelev pointed out that the relations between Bulgaria and the United States have never been so good as they are now, and that there is nothing to cloud the prospects for their further advancement.

The ambassador of the United States to Bulgaria, Mr. Sol Polansky, considers that the election of President Zhelev, who is the first non-Communist president in 45 years in this country, will have a very positive impact on the promotion of the two countries' relations.

His election was extremely well received in the United States, Mr. Polansky told a BTA reporter after today's ceremony, at which President Zhelev conferred on him the Order of Stara Planina with a ribbon in acknowledgement of his contribution to the activation and the expansion of the relations between Bulgaria and the United States.

Mr. Sol Polansky is the first foreign ambassador who has been ever conferred this high distinction. (Before their departure, ambassadors are usually honoured with the Order of the Madara Horseman.) Expressing his gratitude, Mr. Polansky did not forget to note that his two immediate predecessors were not conferred any Bulgarian orders. He said it was indicative of the fact that now the two countries' relations are really very good.

"The United States is prepared to expand and deepen its relations with Bulgaria," Mr. Sol Polansky said, underlining that this was made quite clear in President Bush's telegram of congratulations to Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev. Bulgaria is expected to form a more fully democratic society and engage in privatization and market economy, he said. It will make American business come and the opportunity is there for all sorts of areas of the two countries' relationships, the ambassador pointed out.

Ambassador Sol Polansky expresses hopes as to the establishment of contacts on a summit level. He is convinced that President Zhelyu Zhelev's personal contacts with Secretary of State James Baker and Vice President Dan Quayle during his visit to the United States before the elections in Bulgaria will play a positive role for establishing summit contacts.

President Zhelev Addresses Retiring Generals

AU1608190490 Sofia BTA in English
1749 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 16 Aug (BTA)—"We must take into account the complicated, profoundly contradictory and mostly unpredictable situation in the country," Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev, president of the republic, said here today,

addressing a retirement ceremony for a group of generals, admirals and military officers. He noted the tendencies towards easing world tensions along with the fact that this process runs into a number of difficulties.

"There are numerous trouble spots, and new ones keep emerging. The level of military confrontation in many parts of the world remains high," the president emphasized. "In these conditions defence has to be safeguarded reliably," he added.

Dr. Zhelev praised the services of the high-ranking military for the consolidation of the defence capability of the Bulgarian People's Army and noted their harsh careers, covering for some of them the struggle against fascism, the battlefields of Yugoslavia, Hungary and Austria. He said that they pass on to their successors their love for the people and the homeland, which is particularly important now, in the conditions of the peaceful transition to pluralistic parliamentary democracy and building a prosperous society.

The president said he was convinced that the operational capability of the Bulgarian People's Army will not be impaired by the retirement of the senior military, that the Army will keep developing and asserting itself in the new democratic conditions as a nonpartisan and all-national institution, a reliable guarantor of the country's sovereignty.

Dr. Zhelyu Zhelev said he was determined to work steadily for the strengthening of the country's defence capability both by political means and by measures to maintain the Army at the level of reasonable sufficiency.

Speaking on behalf of the retiring officers, Colonel General Khristo Dobrev, first deputy minister of national defence and chief of the General Staff of the Bulgarian People's Army, agreed with the statement of the president, thanked for the heartfelt words and declared himself in favour of national unity in the name of taking the country out of the crisis.

Former Intelligence Officer Kostov Appears on TV

AU1708112290 Sofia BTA in English 0716 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Sofia, 17 Aug (BTA)—The one-time apparatchik journalist and State Security officer Mr. Vladimir Kostov reappeared on Bulgarian Television last night after a break of thirteen years.

After he defected during a stint as a correspondent in France in 1977, Mr. Kostov started work at the Bulgarian Broadcasting Department of the Munich-based Radio Free Europe. His almost daily critical comments on the policy of the communist regime gained him even greater popularity than before.

Mr. Kostov wrote the book "The Bulgarian Umbrella," which made quite a stir in the West in the late seventies.

In a 40-minute film shot in Munich by a Bulgarian TV crew and broadcast last night, he blamed both the Socialist (former Communist) Party which won the first free elections in Bulgaria and the opposition Union of Democratic Forces of "failing to take an appropriately serious view of the question of Bulgaro-Soviet relations."

"Bulgaria should be open to the USSR and to the West," Mr. Kostov said. In his view, new relations between the two traditionally connected countries are only possible if everything that has burdened them over the last 45 years is cleared away.

Mr. Kostov said he does not trust the incumbent leaders of the former Communist Party because "none of them has mustered courage to assess the past, the blunders and the crimes of the regime in the light of his own responsibility."

"I know the apparat of the Socialist (Communist) Party quite well," he said. "None of the present leaders has revealed his personal responsibility."

In the past Mr. Vladimir Kostov held senior positions in the Bulgarian media. He served as a correspondent of the "RABOTNICHESKO DELO" daily and of the television to France. "Thirteen years ago many people called me a traitor," he said. "I had to accept that so as to be able to talk about Bulgaria in a way that defended its national interests."

Mr. Kostov believes that Bulgaria now has a chance to make specific decisions of its own along the road of the general democratisation in Eastern Europe. The Socialists, however, are still not prepared to face the entire responsibility for the past, and the opposition admits too great compromises on some matters, he said.

He said he was optimistic about the future of the country, provided that private business enterprise has its hands untied fast.

Mr. Kostov warned his fellow Bulgarians against emigrating to the West if they do not have the necessary qualifications and if they do not know the peculiarities of Western societies.

Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant To Halt Operations

AU1608110990 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 11 Aug 90 p 2

[Unattributed BTA report: "Nuclear Power Unit Was Put Out of Operation For Energy Saving Reasons"]

[Text] The No. 5 power unit of the Kozloduy Nuclear Power Plant operated regularly, but with only 58 percent of its capacity, over the last two months.

Chief Engineer Ivan Ivanov, who is in charge of operations, stated as follows in this connection: The power unit is capable of working at its full capacity, but will involve consumption of nuclear fuel over the summer. By the end of January 1991 it will become necessary to put it out of operation in order to recharge the core. The

reasons for halting the power unit's operation are solely connected with the requirement of saving fuel. It is our intention to halt the operation of the No. 5 power unit for a month—a period during which we are planning to perform the necessary, preventive, maintenance repairs.

Fatherland Union Declaration on Economic Crisis

AU1608105590

[Editorial Report] Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian on 10 August on page one publishes a 1,000-word "Declaration of the Fatherland Union National Council" to the citizens of Bulgaria, dated 7 August 1990 in Sofia .

In its preamble, the declaration notes that "the deep and serious economic crisis is stifling society," "the shortage of essential goods and services is becoming chronic," "speculation and corruption are flourishing," and "complete disregard of law and order, of moral values in society, is being demonstrated with increasing brazenness."

The Fatherland Union therefore urges the Grand National Assembly to quickly appoint an effective government to tackle the above problems.

Further, the declaration states that the Fatherland Union makes four demands: first, that "the emergence from the crisis should be at a socially acceptable and fair cost for every Bulgarian"; second, that a minimum income be guaranteed for citizens with low incomes; third, that "consumption of the main kinds of essential commodities be restrained, and that a system of measures guarantee supplies of these goods to every Bulgarian"; and fourth, "that social protection be ensured for every family in the event of unemployment or inability to work."

The declaration then makes a number of proposals on how the above demands can be fulfilled, including the suggestions that "soup kitchens be opened in the large towns to provide food free (or minimally priced food) for the socially weak groups among the population," and that the campaign against black marketeering and speculation be intensified.

The declaration ends by appealing to the members and sympathizers of the Fatherland Union and the other public organizations to care for the socially weak sectors of the population—pensioners, invalids, large families, single mothers, and so on, in their own local areas.

Defense Minister Issues Greeting for Navy Day

AU1608134090 Sofia NARODNA ARMIYA in Bulgarian 10 Aug 90 p 1

["Order of the day" issued by the Minister of National Defense for Navy Day, 13 August; place and date not given]

[Text] Comrade officers, admirals, and generals; comrade sailors, cadets, petty officers, and sergeants; comrade workers and employees working in the Navy; comrade sailors of the reserve, I most sincerely greet you on the occasion of Bulgarian Navy Day.

Established 111 years ago, with the generous assistance of our Russian brothers and liberators, our Navy developed and strengthened in prolonged and difficult voyages and exercises, in the struggle with the stormy seas. The Bulgarian Navy asserted itself as a capable branch of our Armed Forces, as the protector of our motherland's maritime borders.

On board our ships and in the Navy units on the shore, officers, petty officers, and sailors are loyally serving today. They are highly qualified and trained, inspired by their sense of responsibility, and faithful to the legacy of the founders of our Navy. They are contributing to the protection of the people's peaceful life and labor.

Under the conditions of the emerging realities in our country and the world, our sailors today are intensifying their efforts devoted to the improvement of the training quality and combat readiness of the Navy. They vigilantly serve and carry out their duties, by persevering and trying to improve their combat skills and perform their patriotic duties.

I wish the sailors of our Navy further success in mastering their modern weapons and combat equipment to further improving their professional skills and in the renewal of all aspects of their service and everyday life.

On the occasion of the Bulgarian Navy's 111th anniversary, a festive fireworks display is scheduled to take place in Varna.

I am convinced that the sailors will further honorably implement the responsible tasks assigned to them.

Army General Dobri Dzhurov, minister of national defense.

Twenty-Five Citizens Leave Iraq, Arrive in Amman

LD1608173890 Prague CTK in English 1458 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Prague Aug 16 (CTK)—According to reports from the Czechoslovak Embassy in Baghdad, a group of 25 Czechoslovak citizens left Iraq and has already arrived in the Jordanian capital Amman from where they will go to Czechoslovakia, the Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry said today.

Update on Havel's Trip To Nicaragua, Mexico

Statement En Route to Prague

LD1608204890 Prague CTK in English 1951 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Miami, 16 Aug (CTK correspondent)—President Vaclav Havel of Czechoslovakia said today that Czechoslovakia is considerably concerned about development in Cuba, adding that Czechoslovak-Cuban relations have cooled.

In an interview for CTK and the Czechoslovak television during a stopover on his way from a visit to Nicaragua and Mexico here, President Havel recalled his letter of protest sent to Fidel Castro in connection with the recent sentencing of Cuban dissidents "for what we all want—pluralistic policy, freedom of movement etc." and "the very strict answer" Castro had sent him. He said Czechoslovakia naturally wants people in Cuba to achieve their basic rights in a peaceful way, and wants Cuba to have freedom and democracy. "We are not concealing our opinion and if this arouses Fidel Castro's anger, there is nothing that can be done about it," the Czechoslovak president said.

Arrival in Prague

LD1608174990 Pragu CTK in English 1540 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Prague Aug 16 (CTK)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and his entourage returned here this afternoon after paying state visits to Nicaragua and Mexico.

He was welcomed by Czechoslovak Premier Marian Calfa, Deputy Chairman of the Federal Assembly Jozef Stank and Czech Premier Petr Pithart.

Army Reportedly Planned '80 Invasion of Poland

LD1608193790 Warsaw PAP in English 1738 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Prague, Aug. 16—"The Czechoslovak People's Army was to invade Poland with internationalist assistance in 1980 according to a similar scenario as the one used during the aggression by five Warsaw Treaty states against Czechoslovakia in August, 1968," General Stanislav Prochazka of the headquarters of the Czechoslovak land forces has told the ZEMIEDIELSKE NOVINY daily.

According to the general, the Czechoslovak Army was preparing itself to enter Poland at an order from Moscow repeating the variant applied twelve years earlier. However, the intervention was prevented because "General Jaruzelski could forecast its possible effect. He understood that an international attack on Poland had to involve bloodshed and decided to use internal forces earlier on," Prochazka said.

A few months ago the Czechoslovak press appealed to the Defence Ministry to disclose information about Czechoslovak Army's particiption in preparing an aggression against Poland in 1980. The appeal has met with no response so far.

Discussion To Be Held With Poland on Regulations

LD1608210990 Warsaw PAP in English 1819 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Prague, 16 Aug—The Czechoslovak Federal Government today instructed the co-president of the Czechoslovak-Polish Commission for Cooperation in Economy, Science and Technology to discuss with the Polish side in the shortest possible time draft legal regulations concerning economic, financial, banking, customs and communication relations between the two states.

The regulations would also cover the tourist traffic, an official communique said. It added that the side should work out a solution that would satisfy the two countries and would be conducive to a further genuine expansion of their friendly relations.

This has been the first such decision made by the Czechoslovak Government since Czechoslovakia suspended the agreement on tourist traffic with Poland in December 1980. The Polish-Czechoslovak solidarity, whose members are Vaclav Havel and Foreign Minister Jiri Dienstbier, is playing a growing role in the development of relations between the two states.

Rumor of Hungarian Army Deployed on Border Denied

AU1608140690 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 14 Aug 90 p 1

["(JU)"-signed report: "All Quiet on the Borders"]

[Text] As we learned from a telephone call made by a reader in Slovakia, reports are circulating in southern Slovakia that Hungarian Army units have been deployed along Slovakia's borders. Similarly, rumors are also being spread that Hungarian intelligence agents have been dispatched to the regions inhabited by a concentrated Hungarian ethnic minority.

After consulting with the Public Against Violence Coordinating Center and the Slovak Government Office, we have ascertained that the Hungarian Army has been withdrawn from the borders with Austria for a long time, and has been deployed throughout the Hungarian Republic. This does not involve "occupying the borders

with Slovakia." Vladimir Meciar, Slovak premier, recently discussed both these issues with the most senior Hungarian representatives in Budapest. Along with the Federal Ministry of Defense, Meciar believes that no alarming developments whatsoever are involved.

Slovak, Hungarian Officials Discuss Disputes

LD1608174390 Prague CTK in English 1549 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bratislava Aug 16 (CTK)—There is a number of disputes between Czechoslovakia and Hungary, the solution to which requires tolerance and understanding, chairman of the Slovak National Council Frantisek Mikosko and Hungarian General Consul in Bratislava Janos Szerencses stressed here today.

The Hungarian consul, who is ending his tour of duty in Bratislava, said that these problems should not be solved as references in the mass communication media which may cause many misunderstandings.

The Slovak National Council chairman rejected any possibility of changing the current borders.

Further on Future State Structure Discussion

Czech, Slovak CP's Back Federal Setup

LD1608124290 Prague CTK in English 1103 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Prague Aug 16 (CTK)—The Czech and the Slovak Communist Party Executive Committees supported at their joint session in Bratislava yesterday coexistence of two equal Czech and Slovak Republics in a free federal setup, saying that it fully corresponds with the interests of Czechs and Slovaks.

Czechoslovak Communist Party spokesman Josef Hora today said that participants in the meeting assessed the political situation in the country and resolutely condemned the launching of new campaigns aimed at liquidating managers and ordinary employees on the basis of their present and previous party affiliation. In their opinion, this approach destabilized the country's economic and state administration and arouses social tension.

Ruthenians Reject Slovak Autonomy

LD1608125290 Prague CTK in English 1105 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bratislava, August 16 (CTK)—The Ruthenians-Ukrainians living in Czechoslovakia support a joint federative state of the Czechs and Slovaks and national minorities, Mikulas Hirjak, chairman of the Union of Ruthenians-Ukrainians told CTK here today.

Mikulas Hirjak, who is also Slovak National Council (parliament) deputy, voiced concern over the recent efforts of some political parties and movements in Slovakia to establish an independent Slovak Republic. He went on to say that this arouses insecurity and fear about further fate of the national minorities on Czechoslovak territory. "We think that the existing nationality, economic, social or other problems could be solved by means of a dialogue in the framework of the united Czech and Slovak Federative Republic," Mikulas Hirjak underlined.

Meciar Rejects Sovereign Slovakia

LD1608211390 Prague CTK in English 1857 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bratislava, 16 Aug (CTK)—Officials of the future economy ministry of the Slovak Republic had a session here today which was attended by Slovak Premier Valdimir Meciar.

Representatives of some 140 enterprises which are transferred from the federal sphere of metallurgy, engineering and electrical engineering to the newly constituted national economy sphere took part in the session.

The Slovak premier declared the Slovak Government's intention to transfer all economic subejcts in Slovakia to the competence of the Slovak Government by January 1, 1991. He rejected the idea of a sovereign Slovak state.

Dealing with the results of last week's summit meeting of representatives of the Federal, Czech and Slovak government in Trencianske Teplice, West Slovakia, he said that the Slovak Government came to Teplice with a complete, the Czech Government with partial and the Federal Government with practically no concept. All representatives left Teplice with the Slovak concept. "Presidential adviser Jiri Krizan promised to inform about this the president on Bermuda and said that if the president considers it a catastrophe, he will return immediately. He did not return," Meciar stressed.

In connection with social tension he appealed to representatives of trade unions not to lay exaggerated ultimative demands, referring to the danger of the Polish way of economy. He asked the trade unionists for 18-month "social reconciliation."

Government Session Debates Current Issues

LD1608175490 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1500 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The federal government was in session in Prague today. At the start of the session, it approved the temporary statutes of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences valid as of 1 September. It also expressed agreement with the participation of Jiri Dienstbier, deputy premier of the government and minister of foreign affairs, in the meeting of foreign ministers of 35 states of the Conference on Security and cooperation in Europe in New York at the begining of October. It also instructed Jiri Dienstbier, in cooperation with the ministers of foreign trade, transport, and defense, to secure

the evacuation of those of our citizens who wish it and have the necessary exit permit from Iraq and Kuwait for home.

The government instructed the chairman of the Czechoslovak side of the Czechoslovak-Polish Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation to urgently discuss a draft agreement with the Polish side concerning relations in the economic, financial, banking, customs and other areas, including small cross-border contracts and tourism.

The government also noted information about yesterday's meeting between Premier Marian Calfa and representatives of the agriculture and food sector and the trade sector of the national republics and representatives of the Cooperative Farmers Union. It noted that as far as production and sales of meat are concerned, the relevant organs will produce a first report which will contain short and long-term measures for solving the present situation. It is justified that the state should take a certain share of the effect of meat sales and the difficulties connected with them. As far as releasing grain from federal reserves is concerned, the government will be presented with a proposal based on the principle that loans will be considered like sales and the price of grain will be based on its purchase price and the cost of storage. The government also stated that it is necessary to urgently undertake extensive privatization in the food industry and trade.

Slovak Meeting Studies Economic Problems

LD1608204490 Prague Television Service in Slovak 1730 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The most important meeting in the past 20 years. This is how one could briefly characterize today's meeting of managing directors and representatives of key Slovak enterprises and organizations from the machine-building and electrical engineering sectors, various mines, and the magnesite industry with members of the Slovak Government headed by Premier Vladimir Meciar. More than 300 representatives acquainted themselves with the rules and conditions governing the distribution of property between the federal government and the two national governments at the state enterprise level. These sectors are being transferred to the jurisdiction of the Slovak Ministry of Economy as a woeful legacy of the arbitrariness of the previous communist regime. This is why solutions were proposed during the second part of the meeting, which was divided into four separate sections. The solutions were proposed in particular from the viewpoints of restructuring, denationalizing, privatizing, and cooperation wth foreign countries. This was the first attempt to find a way of putting the Slovak economy back on its feet.

Slovak Premier on Enterprise Self-Help Programs

LD1708082690 Prague Television Service in Czech 2000 GMT 16 Aug 90

Report on interview with Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given—correspondent and Meciar speak in Slovak

[Text] Representatives of 140 enterprises, which will come under the new Ministry of the Economy of the Slovak Republic, met today in Bratislava. This body is the counterpart of the Ministries of Industry, Electrical Engineering, and Engineering in the Czech Republic; enterprises that previously came under the Ministries of Metallurgy, Engineering, and the Electrotechnical Industry are being transferred to it. It is expected that all the economic subjects [hospodarsky subjekt] in Slovakia will be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Slovak Government by 1 January 1991. The meeting was addressed by Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar.

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr. Premier, what, in the current situation, is the most important thing for the enterprises in the sectors, which are attending this meeting today, to do to ensure that the Slovak economy picks up again?

[Meciar] This cannot be answered in a single sentence; any partial step could bring about momentary improvement, but also sudden recession. If the enterprises are to get into the situation they desire, they must first of all have clear production programs, flexible organizational structures, well- developed modern principles of internal relations, and aims for their system of management; the legislative conditions must be created for their business activity; above all, they must shake the technical intelligentsia out of their lethargy, because their creativity is indispensable. In essence, by comparing the levels of production plants, we are also comparing the standard of our people's thinking methods. If the technical intelligentsia do not begin to put everything they have into industry, they there will not be any upturn in the foreseeable future. They, themselves, will have to do most of it. Today there is no universal recipe; therefore, everyone must create and seek his own path. The government will try not to hinder this process, but rather create the conditions for business; however, it will not hold anyone's hand, nor will it guarantee anyone any compensation for bad results—that is no longer possible today.

[Correspondent] The Slovak Government is also taking control of such industries, for example, as the Rudne Magnezitove Bane [Magnesite Ore Mines]. Is there any chance that we might not need to reduce the size of a sector that employs a lot of people?

[Meciar] The reduction of a sector depends on the economic consequence. We will not do something which is disadvantageous for us. A reduction program can be decided upon when it is clear what these people are going to do next—in other words, when new jobs have been

created, when retraining has been prepared—because uneven movement, which could result from reduction, would immediately lead to social tension and unrest among everyone else. One of the reasons we fought against the federal principles was that planning issues were always a matter for the federal bodies; however, social, ecological, and infrastructure issues were always a matter for the republics. Now this is our responsibility, and we have taken it on to make things better, not worse.

[Correspondent] Do you mean that everyone has a chance?

[Meciar] I mean that everyone has a chance to work; I do not mean that the enterprises will remain in their existing form, their existing structure, or their existing activity. [end recording]

Slovak Premier Receives Dailies' Chief Editors

LD1608183990 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1630 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar received the chief editors of Slovak dailies today. At the meeting he outlined the main tasks facing the government at present and asked journalists to help in implementing them. The representatives of the dailies drew the premier's attention to serious economic problems caused by the increase in the price of newsprint, by levy duties, and by freeing the prices of printing work. Problems also arise due to the minimal activity on the part of the postal newspaper delivery service, with its monopoly position in despatching and circulating the Slovak press.

Meciar, Carnogursky Visit TV Headquaters

LD1608162490 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1500 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Slovak Premier Vladimir Meciar and First Deputy Premier Jan Carnogursky paid a working visit to the Slovak television headquarters today. They briefed members of the management about some proposals arising from recent discussions among representatives of the two national governments and the federal government in Trencianske Teplice. They also briefed them about the Slovak Government's principled attitude on the legislative organization of Slovak and Czech television based on restructuring the present Czechoslovak Television into two republican services.

Social Democrats Call for Election Postponement

LD1608221790 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1800 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The Czechoslovak Socialist Democracy today published a statement on local elections. It states that, with regard to the state of work on fundamental legal norms concerning local elections scheduled for fall, as well as the position and self-administration of towns and villages, and the discussion which is under way, the leadership of the party has arrived at the conclusion that good and appropriate preparation for the elections is not guaranteed. The Czechoslovak Socialist Democracy, therefore, asks that they be postponed until the first quarter of next year.

Further on Call for Postponement

LD1608222390 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 2030 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] The leadership of the Czechoslovak Democratic Forum told CTK today that it supports the proposal from the political commission of the Assembly of Political Parties, Movements, and Associations in Czechoslovakia that the local government elections should be held in the spring of next year. At the same time it stressed that a rebuilding of the local administration should be carried out first, and that the election laws should be examined by the public.

Miroslav Stepan's Release Viewed With Disbelief

AU1608142290 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 13 Aug 90 p 1

[Ondrej Neff commentary: "Beyond the Boundaries of Black Humor"]

[Text] It took six days for the Prosecutor General to announce the report that you will have to read at least five times in order to comprehend its meaning. We have all become victims of a joke which goes far beyond the boundaries of black humor. Miroslav Stepan will not be tried for instigating [others to commit] the criminal act of abusing the power of a public official; not because he was not found guilty of that, but because the pertinent law was amended on 1 July. According to this law, he is no longer liable to prosecution. So, they pulled our leg for such a long time about the investigation into the brutal intervention in Narodni Street and assured us that the ball of yarn was so entangled that it was almost impenetrable, until Stepan was enabled to escape from the cobweb. The inscription at Prachatice City Hall, which had been there since time immemorial, says that the cobweb will only catch small flies, big bugs will tear through it. How is it that it took the prosecutor general that long to find out that Stepan phoned the commanders of the "intervention" instructions to massacre the students instead of simply preventing the procession from getting from Wenceslas Square to the Castle? Who covered up this simple fact for such a long time until the law was passed which made it possible for Stepan to escape? How could the responsible organs fail in such an important case as the investigation of the events of 17 November? For more then half a year, our eyes and those of the foreign public have been glued to this case. If the prosecutor general's investigative organs proceeded indolently in this case, we should not be surprised that such "negligible" matters as the provable tax machinations of the Communist Party bosses, to which MLADA FRONTA already drew attention to in May, will fall behind the "horizon of interests."

If we do not say now: enough of "velvet," and if the last reversal in Miroslav Stepan's case is not properly investigated—whether it was caused by objective reasons (such reasons would have to be serious ones indeed, about which there would be no doubt!), or whether it was caused by indolence based on incapability, or whether it involved a simple machination in good faith that went unnoticed by the public, as everything previously did that had not been clear—if all this falls into the mud of evasions and half-truths, the boat of our democracy will be hit below the water line once again.

Sacher Denies Role in Orfei Espionage Affair

AU1608144990 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 14 Aug 90 pp 1,2

[Interview with Richard Sacher, former federal minister of interior, by Rostislav Rod; place and date not given: "The Conclusions Are Artificially Contrived"—opening paragraphs are MLADA FRONTA introduction]

[Text] In an article by correspondent A. Tarquini a few days ago, the Italian daily LA REPUBBLICA claimed that Richard Sacher, former federal minister of interior, and Josef Bartoncik, chairman of the Czechoslovak People's Party, were behind the Orfei affair, associating this influential Italian politician's alleged cooperation with the Czechoslovak espionage service. According to the version that the Italian newspaper presented to its readers, the affair involved an internal Czechoslovak political battle and a maneuver directed against President Vaclav Havel.

According to a report released by CTK yesterday, the latest issue of the Italian weekly L'ESPRESSO also expresses the assumption that Richard Sacher might have been behind the case. Evidence on the activity of the old regime is still secret, and is deposited in the headquarters of the former State Security Corps [StB] at No. 21 Mayakovskiy Street where "President Havel's men" are now working. Havel is to visit Italy this fall and sources close to him say that he wants to use this visit to present material to the Italians concerning Italian terrorism. This is normal cooperation between two free, democratic countries. But what if there is someone in Prague who wants to sabotage these efforts? According to L'ESPRESSO, this individual is, precisely, Richard Sacher.

We therefore asked Richard Sacher for his opinion and comments on the whole affair.

[Sacher] First of all, I would like to deny the press and radio reports to the effect that I have been to Bermuda [while President Havel was vacationing there]. I have never been there. I visited the FRG and the Republic of Austria. As far as the article in the daily LA REPUBBLICA is concerned, I will only say that I have never informed either the Presidium of the Czechoslovak People's Party or Mr. Bartoncik, the party chairman, about the affairs of the Federal Ministry of Interior. Both as minister of interior and as a citizen, I would never take any step that might cast a shadow of doubt or mistrust between myself and President Vaclav Havel. I categorically deny the accusation that any of my activities were aimed at discrediting the president.

[Rod] Is there any real foundation for the LA REPUBBLICA article?

[Sacher] When Pope John Paul II was here [in April 1990], Czechoslovakia and Italy mutually abolished the visa obligation. In Czechoslovakia we were also dismantling listening devices. I considered it proper, therefore, that the same step be taken on Italian territory as well. As I was informed that a listening device of high technical standards had been installed in the office of a high-ranking Vatican representative, I let the appropriate Italian bodies know about it. Moreover, information yielded by the listening devices did not serve the interests of our state, but rather those of a third country. It also needs to be said that a certain person of Italian—or other—nationality, who had a conspiratorial apartment near the location where the listening device had been installed, received this tapping. I do not know whether this person exposed [dekonspirovala] the intelligence network on the basis of information disclosed, but I consider this a realistic possibility.

[Rod] Do you believe that a deliberate spreading of misinformation was involved on the part of the Italian newspaper?

[Sacher] I am surprised by the connections which LA REPUBBLICA puts together. It views the whole situation from the perspective of August, yet the events it refers to occurred in May. Its conclusions thereby become artificially contrived. In this way, however,they turned me into a target for the Italian mafia. Rather than discreditation, I would expect thanks from the Italian authorities.

[Rod] Which country used the information from the tapping?

[Sacher] I cannot say that. I assume, however, that neither you nor the readers will find it hard to guess.

GERMAN UNIFICATION

Notice to Readers: *In order to provide information concerning German unification in one location for the benefit of our readers, material on that topic from the FRG, GDR, and other media is now being published in the German Unification Attachment to the West Europe DAILY REPORT.*

Thirteen Citizens Cross From Iraq to Jordan

LD1608181990 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1555 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Amman (ADN)—Jordan continues to be the assembly point for thousands of foreigners who are daily leaving Iraq two weeks after the invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Today 13 GDR citizens passed through the crossing point of al-Ruwayshid, including a family of three who reached Baghdad from Kuwait after the invasion. At the moment around 40 GDR citizens are still in the Iraqi capital. Nine trade representatives who left Iraq on 11 August have in the meantime been able to fly home from Amman. Those arriving reported that, having a valid exit visa, they had no problems at the Iraqi passsport and customs checks, and were treated correctly. In their opinion the situation of foreigners in both Iraq and Jordan is more normal than is usually portrayed in the press. [passage omitted on background material]

Army Officers Suspended for Iraqi Arms Deal

LD1508194690 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1742 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Berlin (ADN)—Four National People's Army [NVA] officers have been temporarily suspended from duty by Disarmament and Defense Minister Rainer Eppelmann in connection with GDR tank deliveries to Iraq. The Ministry for Disarmament and Defense announced this to ADN today. [passage omitted]

The Disarmament and Defense Ministry's statement says that investigations by a joint working group of the Ministries of Disarmament, Finance and Economic Affairs into arms exports have shown that two deliveries were made to Iraq—on 23 April and 31 July of this year. The investigations also revealed that parts for the bridge-laying tanks came from NVA stocks. This primarily concerned the superstructures (bridge layers) [brueckenaufleger—armored bridge-laying vehicle].

The statement says that the minister makes it clear that the supply contract with Iraq was agreed on 25 September 1989. "This is another bad inheritance from Socialist Unity Party of Germany times," Eppelmann said. The Stoph and Modrow governments were responsible for this arms deal in the Middle East crisis region. According to Eppelmann, the arms exports were uncovered by their own investigations.

The minister has also decided that in the future no export or import business should be undertaken by the NVA. Such transactions now need the minister's approval.

Eppelmann has appointed State Secretary for Disarmament Frank Marczinek to head an investigation commission.

Commentary Views NVA Soldiers to Saudi Denial

AU1708104390 East Berlin BERLINER ZEITUNG in German 15 Aug 90 p 1

[Manfred Quiring commentary: "Short-Lived Denial"]

[Text] Despite rumors to the contrary, soldiers of the National People's Army [NVA] will not be used in Saudi Arabia. The denial came from Eppelmann's ministry and was supplemented with the statement that their use would be possible only within the framework of the United Nations. There is no doubt that this is reassuring news in view of the explosive crisis in the Gulf, which was started by Saddam Husayn.

The validity of the denial is extremely short-lived, however, because with the upcoming demise of the GDR the military-political cards will be reshuffled. Germany's NATO membership has been a fact—at the latest—since the meeting between Kohl and Gorbachev in northern Caucasus. There is, therefore, no longer any obstacle to including in NATO activities those troops that were repeatedly confronted with previously decided facts by the Soviet-dominated Supreme Command of the Warsaw Pact.

This might happen if NATO-member Turkey is attacked by Iraq. But even direct action no longer seems like a castle in the air.

In any case, Chancellor Kohl expressed yesterday the readiness to send FRG Navy minesweepers to the Gulf region, where the borderline between defense against an Iraqi aggression and the securing of the oil supply for the rich North becomes increasingly blurred.

Under these circumstances, the denial of Eppelmann's ministry loses much of its reassuring effect. Even though the image of an NVA soldier who "protects" the interests of Minol [GDR oil company] in the Gulf is admittedly a bit farfetched, it is still a fact that the explosive Middle East is directly knocking on our door via our future NATO membership.

Further Reportage on Situation in Iraq, Kuwait

Citizens Forbidden To Leave

LD1608165790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] It is possible that, for the moment, Hungarians cannot leave Iraq and Kuwait after all. The Hungarian Embassy in Iraq has been told that no citizens holding diplomatic or service passports, or their families, will be allowed to leave the Arab country—no matter which country they are from. As an explanation, the Iraqis said that the regulation has changed, although in the morning they agreed that the Hungarians could leave the country through Amman. Hungarian diplomacy immediately reacted to Baghdad's announcement. It called the measure an unacceptable step, and contrary to international law. The Foreign Ministry stresses, however, that no danger threatens the Hungarians in Kuwait and Iraq.

Prohibition on Leaving: 'Unacceptable'

LD1608211590 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Excerpts] Not one citizen of any country who has a diplomatic or service passport is allowed to leave the territory of Iraq or Kuwait, the Hungarian Foreign Ministry was informed this afternoon. Earlier, a detailed plan for getting Hungarians citizens out had been formulated. Miklos Lengyel reports from the news conference.

[Lengyel] Spokesman Janos Herman said that, according to their information, there are 159 Hungarian citizens in Kuwait and 33 in Iraq. [passage omitted]

It is a question now not only of those with diplomatic or service passports not being able to leave the territory of the two countries, but also those who have valid work contracts. The latter may only leave if the Iraqi or Kuwaiti employers state in writing that they have fulfilled their contractual obligations.

This morning, Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky received the Iraqi ambassador, who did not then inform him of his government's decision in this respect. The leader of Hungarian diplomacy emphasized that, in the opinion of the Hungarian Government, all Hungarian citizens have the right to leave Iraq and Kuwait. In connection with the later Iraqi decision, the spokesman said that this was in stark contrast with international law, and was totally unacceptable.

Iraq has also called on foreign embassies to cease their activities in Kuwait by 24 August. If they are not willing to do this, states the communique in a threatening tone, then the Iraqi side could make them leave Kuwait, even using force. At present, a four-man group is in Baghdad to lay the ground for the return home of the Hungarians. The foreign affairs spokesman specially emphasized that, considering the circumstances, the Hungarians living in Iraq and Kuwait are well, and that the Foreign Ministry is doing everything in the interest of their being able to return home as soon as possible.

Jeszenszky on Evacuation

LD1608112490 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky by reporter Jozsef P. Szabo; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Szabo] A reader's letter was published in Wednesday's MAGYAR NEMZET. The family of a Hungarian citizen who was working and living—and now trapped—in Kuwait reproached the Foreign Ministry for not doing enough to bring the people home who are trapped in Kuwait. I asked Geza Jeszenszky: Are there any fresh developments on this area?

[Jeszenszky] I think that today's MAGYAR NEMZET contains a very thorough and satisfactory reply. Perhaps other papers also published the reply—I could only read this one—in which a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry gives a precise and comprehensive reply to the question. I have to say that employees of the Foreign Ministry are continuously—day and night—dealing with the security and evacuation of Hungarian citizens. Hungary was the first—at least in this region—to take steps in order to bring its citizens home; the Hungarian citizens could have been home a week ago or longer.

We wanted to send a plane to the nearest international airport, which is 150 km away from Kuwait. Unfortunately, this was not possible, and through no fault of ours. Therefore, an evacuation will have to take place via a longer journey overland.

[Szabo] Do we have information that Hungarians have started already?

[Jeszenszky] It is certain that they have not yet begun this journey.

Jeszenszky Discusses Relations With Romania

LD1608122690 Budapest MTI in English 1114 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Budapest, August 16 (MTI)—'Hungary is ready for exemplary good-neighbourly, friendly relations with Romania. Everything depends on the Romanian Government acknowledging that Romania is a multinational state, populated by a considerable number of Hungarians, as well as other minorities, who have fundamental and just demands that should be met. This is the case in all enlightened European states,' Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said in an interview with Radio Free Europe. The interview elicited sharp official attacks from Romania, which were refuted one by one by the Hungarian Foreign Ministry.

The Thursday issue of 'MAGYAR NEMZET' carries the summarised version of the interview.

Mr Jeszenszky notes that the Hungarian position was set forth in detail to the Romanian secretary of state for foreign affairs, during his visit to Budapest. Mr Jeszenszky said Hungary is ready for further talks, but it does not wish to hold unsuccessful talks. The Hungarian side has made many proposals namely, those to ensure the educational needs of Hungarians in Transylvania, the legal sale of Hungarian books and cultural goods in Romania, the opening of new border crossings, the improvement of telephone and railway connections between the two countries, and the reception of Hungarian television in Romania, but only a few were accepted by the (?Romanian) [words indistinct] (?Hungarian) foreign minister termed the reopening of the Hungarian consulate in Cluj (Kolozsvar), for which there is already a valid international agreement, as a 'fundamental expectation.' Mr. Jeszenszky rejected the Romanian argument that 'agreements concluded under earlier dictatorships should be considered as null and void.' He said he would never have thought that he would have to defend the former Communist Party general secretary, Karoly Grosz, but it is a fact that previous Hungarian Governments - including that of Karoly Grosz and those of the past 20 years of dictatorship - cannot be compared to that of Romania.

Mr Jeszenszky was of the opinion that the aim of the Romanian Government was to drive the two million Transylvanian Hungarians out of Transylvania, or to assimilate those who remain into the rest of the country. He also said that 'certain Romanians will unfortunately not feel that they are in total possession of Transylvania as long as Hungarians continue to live there.'

Regarding the threatening, anti-Hungarian behaviour of certain extremist groups in Romania whose aim is to incite racial hatred, Mr Jeszenszky said: 'I do not see much hope for an improvement in our relations unless official Romania distances itself from these elements. We do not wish to contribute to the isolation of Romania. The country is isolating itself. On the contrary, we would like Romania to open itself towards the external world. I very much hope that the Romanian president and others in the government, and outside it as well, will come to understand that Romania's economic prosperity depends on its readiness to cooperate, not only with Hungary, but with Europe in general. Instead of devoting so much energy on inciting hate, they should rather concentrate on economic recovery and on improving the standard of living for the ordinary Romanian,' Hungarian Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky said, among other things.

Foreign Ministry on Relations With Slovakia

LD1508202790 Prague CTK in English 1539 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] Budapest Aug 15 (CTK correspondent)—Hungarian President Arpad Goncz's recent visit to Czechoslovakia confirmed that the Hungarian side is sincerely interested in an open dialogue and joint solution to all accumulated problems in Hungarian-Czechoslovak relations, the Hungarian Foreign Ministry said today.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Janos Herman said the information about the alleged massing of Hungarian troops on the borders with Slovakia was fabricated. He said Slovak-Hungarian relations were specific, not only because of a common history, geographical neighbourhood and all-round cooperation but particularly because there are minorities living in both countries. It is therefore necessary to create an atmosphere for constructive cooperation which should be based on strengthening confidence between the government, especially statements by each side should be considered in a matter-of-fact manner and no other intentions behind them should be sought.

Increasing Unemployment Figures Reported

AU1608142390 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 13 Aug 90 p 1,3

["M.P."-signed article: "Unemployment Figures Are Steadily Rising"]

[Text] Unemployment figures in the Hungarian economy are steadily rising. In midsummer, an estimated 25,000 people received unemployment benefits. Benefits amounted to approximately 5,500 forints—in other words, a sum less than even the current minimum wages.

Between January and June 1990, a total of 35,500 employees claimed unemployment benefits. That is to say, during the first six months of the year, more than 10,000 people managed to find a job, while about 700 were denied unemployment benefits. People are excluded from the receiving benefits if they "do not cooperate" with the employment agencies, or if they have access to another income in some other way.

According to Laszlo Kalmar, director of the Employment Information Center, almost one-quarter of all the "official" unemployed are skilled workers. Some 34 percent have only a general school education; as far as qualifications are concerned, they constitute the largest group. Indeed, the number of those who do not even have eight years of primary school under their belt "only" amounts to 14 percent. The eight percent who finished university or high school, however, and who are claiming unemployment benefits, studied in vain; they have not found suitable employment either.

The situation in Szabolcs-Szatmar County is worse than the national average. Between 5,600 and 5,700 of our fellow countrymen received unemployment benefits in July in this area most marked by unemployment. Sandor Kallai, head of the county's employment center, informed us that approximately 4,500 of those claiming benefits are between 20 and 40 years old. Well over 1,200 citizens between the ages of 30 and 35 are looking for work in this county, but no acceptable positions can be offered to them. It is thought-provoking to

realize that 461 youths with qualifications from vocational secondary schools, 131 young people coming from technical schools, and 522 high school graduates have been unable to find work in Szabolcs-Szatmar. Furthermore, 170 college graduates are forced to subsist on budget funds—largely as graduate agricultural engineers in the northeastern part of the country. We may add that those who return from fairly well-paid positions in Budapest and put themselves on the unemployment lists are not to be found in this group. Indeed, they are entitled to higher benefits than those who have taken on work under Szabolcs conditions. It repeatedly happens that candidates on the list are offered work, but they would receive less money for their efforts than if they relied on the unemployment benefits due to them after their previous position.

The employment situation is far more reassuring in the western part of the country. According to Mrs. Ferenc Csanar, deputy head of a department at Vas County council, 430 people in this county received unemployment benefits in July 1990. Referring to historic events dating back to the Zsigmond period, the official said that "the composition of the population was different" in Vas county to what it might be in Szabolcs-Szatmar. An additional 160 persons are registered, but they cannot receive any unemployment benefits because, in this case, they do not satisfy legal requirements. Most of the unemployed are between 20 and 40 years old. More than 300 are semiskilled and skilled workers, and they constitute the largest category. Some 120 people are currently being retrained; until now they were being trained in the manufacture of electronics, but now they are being taught how to sew clothes—somewhat contrary to the world trend. Incidentally, light industry prevails in Vas County, and this is another reason why unemployment figures are relatively low. Indeed, the crisis affects this branch of industry to a lesser degree.

Party Urges Government Action on Agriculture

LD1508222790 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2000 GMT 15 Aug 90

[Text] The Hungarian Socialist Party is demanding urgent government intervention to maintain the functioning capacity of agriculture. At the party's agrarian forum in Budapest, it was said that a grave decline—which could only be reversed with difficulty—may come about if the country's leaders turn their attention exclusively to the restoration of the 1947 lnd property situation, rather than maintaining the functioning capacity of agriculture. According to the participants, the reduction of the sector's tax burdens cannot be delayed, nor can aid for expanding the market. The party stance resserts that a comprehensive, coordinated agrarian program—one that is not influenced by party interests—is needed. The restoration of land property is just one part of this, and cannot replace a comprehesive settlememt of the agriulture issue.

Neo-Fascist Book Advertising Provokes Controversy

AU1608161290

[Editorial Report] Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian on 14 August on pages 1 and 4 carries a 700-word report by Ferenc Hajba on the Hungarian advertising campaign for Gerd Honsik's book, "Freispruch fuer Hitler" ["In Defense of Hitler"], under the headline: "The Director Asks for No Mercy— General Outcry Concerning Neo-Fascist Book."

The Director of Szechenyi Press, Ivan Nagy, faces criminal charges for the advertising of "Freispruch fuer Hitler," a book that has been "banned in Austria, listed as dangerous reading material for young people in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the author of which has been fined 54,000 Deutsche marks in Munich." Szechenyi Press printed advertising leaflets and order slips for the controversial book, and mailed these abroad. Nagy has turned down the offer of a pardon.

According to Public Prosecutor Dr. Laszlo Kopacsi, interviewed by Ferenc Hajba, Hungarian law stipulates that "publications must not violate public morality." He certainly hopes that "advertising leaflets which publicize a book in defense of Hitler are considered to be a violation against public morality in Hungary."

Asked about Ivan Nagy's reaction, Dr. Kopacsi added: "The director refused a pardon because he wants his case to set an example. He believes that printing bosses have become uncertain about what can and cannot be printed. I do not know whether this procedure will enlighten other heads of printing houses— as publishers, they are definitely in a very confusing situation. Nevertheless, I think this issue goes further than that."

Polish Convoy Leaving Kuwait for Iraq

LD1608152290 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1400 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Statement by Krzysztof Szumski, director of the consular department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; place and date not given]

[Text] We have received information from Kuwait confirming that a convoy containing Polish citizens left in the direction of Baghdad, and specifically, Ar Ramadi. The total number of Polish citizens in the convoy is 443 people, of whom 68 are traveling in private cars, the remainder in seven coaches and two minibuses. We expect the convoy to reach the Polish camp at Ar Ramadi late this evening, where they can rest overnight. From information given by our mission in Kuwait, we have learned that 250 people want to be evacuated.

I wish to assure you that the moment the convoy, which has already left, crosses the Jordanian border, we will be taking steps to also evacuate the remaining people in Kuwait. I would like to point out that considerable logistical problems exist in view of the situation in this region. For example, only seven instead of 10 coaches were provided for transport today.

Poles Expected Home 18 Aug

LD1708104690 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1005 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Krystyna Koziol report]

[Text] At 0900 a convoy of 448 Poles evacuating from Kuwait via Iraq left Ar Ramadi, near Baghdad, in the direction of Amman. They are expected in Amman before 2000—they will be crossing at the [name indistinct] post on the Jordanian-Iraqi border. As the consular department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reports, three LOT [Polish National Airline] charter planes have been sent to pick up this group. Their arrival in Warsaw is envisaged either tomorrow in the late evening, or else on Sunday morning. The news on the health of our countrymen in Ar Ramadi is good. It was reported that they arrived there in good condition.

Ladies and gentlemen, there is as yet no list with the names of persons who have left Kuwait. Just as soon as we have this list we will report on this. Our outpost in Amman is prepared for the reception of the Poles. I would like to supplement or else correct the news that was carried by the GAZETA WYBORCZA today. It is not 11 Polish tourists who have been in Amman since Wednesday—the 11 are the LOT crew of Captain Kolodziej that earlier left Baghdad. One more thing: Intensive diplomatic activity is under way so as to bring out of Kuwait the 250-strong group of remaining Poles wishing to leave.

Ukrainian Nationalists Search Tourists in USSR

LD1608220690 Warsaw PAP in English 2129 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Moscow, Aug 16—Before they reach the customs, Polish tourists as well as other people who leave the Soviet Union or make a transit trip through Shegin are illegally searched by young and quite aggressive activists from the Ukrainian nationalist organization "Movement," TASS reported.

The authorities of the Lvov District Council allowed volunteers to search luggage of tourists in order to make it impossible to buy up by "tradesmen" goods which are in short supply.

In an answer to these illegal actions, the Polish authorities of the border regions declared a ban on selling goods brought there by tourists from the Lvov District.

Walesa's Early Elections Statement Assessed

AU1708093890 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 11-12 Aug 90 p 1

[Piotr Pacewicz commentary: "What Walesa Said"]

[Text] In Thursday's [9 August] statement, Lech Walesa came out in favor of holding parliamentary and presidential elections as quickly as possible. He said that "Poland needs a president with broad powers—one chosen in a general election." He called for a "dignified" election campaign, one free from personal attacks, and for a "fight with arguments, not invectives." He proposed "an accord between all forces to preserve mutual tolerance and political culture."

Lech Walesa called for tolerance, civilized political conduct, and the suspension of personal attacks in the election campaign that lies ahead of us. This will no doubt be received well by people, who—judging by the letters and calls that we have received—have had enough of a brutal "war at the top." So, Lech's call may result in the rejection of the sort of political conduct that alarmed observers at that 24 June Citizens Committee meeting, which led to a split, or the meeting at the Gdansk shipyard.

Why has the chairman made this statement? In calling for a return to reason, Walesa, who has a gift for sensing the mood of the public, wants to dispel the bad impression created by many of his statements.

In a manner that leaves no doubts, Lech Walesa has distanced himself from the Center Accord's scenario of the present parliament electing a president in "a few weeks' time" by stressing that the elections should be general ones.

What is equally important is that in his statement Walesa talks about both parliamentary and presidential elections and always in that order. This would mean that

the Sejm would have to dissolve itself first (and automatically the whole parliament). What is more, the introduction of the presidential powers mentioned by the chairman would require the adoption of a new constitution.

If these interpretations seem to go too far, then there is one thing about which there is no doubt: Lech Walesa has signaled a turnabout on the policy of a lightning change in the "office of president." It is perhaps a return to the original scenario for political change in Poland: a new constitution, a new parliament, and a new president—a scenario which he himself had earlier called into question.

A striking question remains: Was this political slowing down not perhaps in some way influenced by the invitation that President Jaruzelski has received to visit the United States on 11 October. Perhaps President Bush has in this way aided political stabilization in Poland.

Lech Walesa has not announced his candidacy directly, but the description of presidential powers and, let us put it this way, the style of the presidency ("should internal political disputes make rapid political decisions impossible, a president possessing the courage to use his powers") conform to the political role that has been linked to his person for some time.

In distancing himself from political conflict and proposing parliamentary elections before presidential ones, Lech Walesa probably wanted to stress that he stands above divisions, although he himself prompted them. In acting in the role of an arbiter, Walesa has drawn on his charisma as a leader of the nation and not that of the leader of a political faction.

Geremek, Kaczynski, Bujak View Remark

AU1708094290 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 11-12 Aug 90 p 2

[Unattributed roundup of statements made to GAZETA WYBORCZA by Jaroslaw Kaczynski, Bronislaw Geremek, and Zbigniew Bujak; place and date not given: "What Walesa Said"]

[Text] Jaroslaw Kaczynski, Center Accord: "Lech Walesa's statement says clearly that public support for the present political setup has been exhausted. By coming out in favor of general presidential elections, Walesa does not, however, rule out the possibility that the Sejm will reject the constitutional amendment that has been proposed and that it will be necessary for the parliament in its present form to provisionally elect a president. This is not at variance with the position of the Center Accord. Walesa has, like us, also come out in support of a quasi-presidential system that resembles the French one.

"We fully support the call for civilized political conduct contained in the statement."

Bronislaw Geremek, leader of the Citizens Parliamentary Club [OKP]: "I am delighted to see that the statement contains principles that I consider to be the political legacy of "Solidarity." I agree with the view contained in the statement that the present political setup, which means parliament and the president, need to be changed. I think that in this way the Solidarity chairman has expressed support for the OKP's idea of considering a time frame for political changes. His opinion will be of significance for the work of the OKP, which is making preparations for the September parliamentary debate."

Zbigniew Bujak, plenipotentiary of the Citizens Movement "Democratic Action": "I received the statement with relief. In it, Lech Walesa distances himself from the idea of having the present parliament elect the president—that is, from duplicating a nondemocratic mechanism, which would harm the dignity of the office of president. I am a little concerned that Walesa did not mention a specific date for the elections—that would have had an even more calming effect on the situation. I hope that in appealing for tolerance and civilized political conduct in the election campaign, Walesa will also distance himself from many of his own statements. It would be a good thing if those who felt that some of his statements were directed at them were also to interpret this statement in the same manner."

Peasant Party Marks 1920 War Anniversary

LD1608193990 Warsaw PAP in English 1803 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Warsaw, Aug 16—The PSL (Polish Peasant Party) chief executive committee met here today under the chairmanship of Roman Bartoszcze. Assessing the present social and political situation, the meeting drew attention to ceremonies marking the anniversary of the Polish-Bolshevik war of 1920, including massive religious and patriotic rallies organized by the PSL in many places across Poland.

The meeting decided to firmly protest against blocking information and TV reports covering the largest demonstrations.

While evaluating the preparations for presenting PSL programmes in the media, the meeting offered the post of chief consultant to the project's economic part to Professor Rafal Krawczyk.

Minister Nastase Warns of War in Middle East

AU1608175890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1602 GMT 16 Aug 90

["Interviews-Statements: Adrian Nastase on the Situation in the Middle East"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/8/1990—"A sparkle is clear to start a conflict of deep-going implications for the peace and security of the area and of the world," shows Romania's Foreign Minister, Mr. Adrian Nastase, in an interview with the newspaper "TINERETUL LIBER."

"The situation in the Gulf area," he also says, "is highly complicated and extremely dangerous." Complicated, he explains, because countless forces are concentrated in this conflict and dangerous because of the combat means already deployed in the area, which run the risk of the use of weapons of non-discriminatory effects, such as chemical or even nuclear arms. "That is why I wish to reiterate our stance," the minister stresses, "in the sense that we believe that the only way to look at the situation in the Gulf area is by considering the principles of the UN Charter, the rules governing the states' conduct in the international arena."

Referring to the European dimension of the international political life, Mr. Nastase said that "the most important moment on a European plane will be the conference on security and cooperation of the heads of state and government, due in Paris in November, which will have to discuss the scenario of the changes to occur in Europe in the years to come in conditions in which relations of force and influence on a European plane change, a reunification of Germany means a sensible modification not only in central Europe but also on the continent as a whole and the internal tension in the Soviet Union may lead to changes in the general political configuration of one of the big powers of the world," the minister says, adding: "We consider that we should be a presence in this dialogue, advancing our own point of view."

Spokesman Views Iraq, Environment, NATO

AU1708100790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0910 GMT 17 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 17/08/90 —After the endorsement of the 661 resolution of the UN Security Council, the Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs keeps in touch with the Iraqi authorities for having the Romanian citizens come back from Iraq, stated on August 17 councilor Adrian Petrescu, foreign ministry spokesman, in a news conference given to Romanian and foreign journalists.

The spokesman highlighted that the problem of Romanian-Bulgarian collaboration in environmental protection in the zones near the state frontier was discussed in several meetings, that resulted in the idea of concluding a convention between the two countries on environmental protection, which is still to be achieved, as well as of setting up a joint government commission of experts to analyze the situation.

Wishing to start collaboration with the NATO, Adrian Petrescu said, Prime Minister Petre Roman has recently invited the NATO secretary-general to visit Romania. The letter expresses Romania's interest in sending a permanent ambassador to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

Arab Students Protest U.S. Intervention in Gulf

AU1608133290 Bucharest Domestic Service in Romanian 1300 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Approximately 250 Arab students from Iraq, the Palestinian territory, Jordan, Sudan, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, and Libya, studying in Bucharest, participated this morning in a protest demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy in Bucharest. On this occasion, they expressed their stand on the current situation in the Gulf, chanted anti-American slogans, spoke out in favor of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, and endorsed Kuwait's annexation by Iraq, claiming that it is strictly an Arab problem.

Roman, Foreign Businessmen Discuss Projects

AU1608180990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1615 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/8/1990—Thursday Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman received the director-general of the Burma Oil (Deutschland) [Germany] GMBH [Limited] Company, Walter Christian.

After the call the guest stated the following to a "ROMPRES" editor:

For three months we have been discussing a large project with the Romanian partners. We wish that Romania no longer imports oils but produces them itself, ensuring the necessary quantities for the home needs as well as the exports requirements. We have signed a memorandum stipulating the setting up of a three-company consortium whose aim is the re-equipment of the Pitesti refinery at such a level as to make possible the manufacture of basic oils and in maximum a year of finite products as well. Mr. Petre Roman accepted that idea. We are also aiming at another project worth of 50 million dollars to build railway cars depots equipped with laboratories and all the necessary installation to make possible the use of the Castrol oil made in West Germany and later of the one made in Romania.

Also on Thursday Prime Minister Petre Roman received at the Victory Palace in the capital city Mr. Henry Benach, chairman of the administration council of the Starrett Housing Corporation.

'Understanding' Expressed for Travel Restrictions

AU1608181990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1630 GMT 16 Aug 90

["Official News: Specifications of the Foreign Affairs Ministry"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/8/1990—Romania's Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses its understanding for the measure taken by the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic according to which the Romanian citizens travelling in that country should show the frontier officers the invitation from a person in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic confirmed by the local police bodies or other documents attesting their pre-paid sojourn.

At the same time, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs voices its hope that the authorities in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic will cancel those restrictions as soon as the present situation is overcome, when a relatively large number of Romanian citizens are in transit on that country's territory, a communique reads.

International Human Rights Meeting 8-10 Dec

AU1608125690 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1017 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 16/08/1990—The Human Rights Protection League of Romania informs that the first international conference of nonpolitical and nongovernment organizations that protect the human rights in the 35 states signatory to the Helsinki final act and of the 1989 Vienna meeting will be held in Bucharest on Romania, over December 8-10, 1990.

Forty two years since the endorsement of the universal declaration of human rights—December 10, 1948—the human rights day, will be also marked on the occasion.

The conference plans to set up a council to coordinate the activities for the protection of human rights.

The nonpolitical and nongovernment organizations that wish to participate in the December 8-10, 1990 international conference may announce their participation by September 15, 1990 to: the Human Rights Defence League, Bucharest, Romania, No. 11 Onesti Street, Telephone No. 13-71-90.

Iliescu Discusses Political Goals, Obstacles

AU1608134190 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croation 11-12 Aug 90 p 9

[Interview with President Ion Iliescu by Blazo Sarovic; place and date not given: "Life in the Chains of Inheritance"; first two paragraphs are BORBA introduction]

[Text] It is probably because of the totalitarian severity of Ceausescu's regime, relying on coercion and force, that the showdown in the last days of December had to be so fierce and dramatic. Romania "leaped" into the focus of the world attention and has more or less remained in it throughout the last eight months. Parliamentary elections and events that followed only increased the media's interest in this country.

The newly elected president of the Republic of Romania, Ion Iliescu, received our editor Blazo Sarovic. In a two-hour interview with BORBA he answered all questions without hesitation—which had not been sent to him in advance—as is the usual practice for a statesman communicating with the public.

[Sarovic] Mr. President, you are the first president in the last 50 years of Romanian history who came to this position through the will and the vote of the people. This democratic act, however, was preceded by tempestuous and dramatic events last December in which, through an explosion of the people's rebellion, Ceausescu's dictatorial regime was overthrown. It is known that you were one of the key people in these events and that you took the risk of organizing and leading the masses in the showdown with the dictatorship. Was this a planned beginning of the road to win power, or was it the maelstrom of subsequent events that ejected you as the main candidate for the post you hold at present?

[Iliescu] I never set myself such a program aim and did not imagine such a future before the December events. However, on 22 December, I spontaneously came to the center of events. I was not an unknown person in the country before that time either. I was already known in 1971 when I clearly expressed my views on Romania's political development, when I opposed Ceausescu's regime. This is probably the reason why people spontaneously called me. The spontaneous calls were first heard in Timisoara on 20 December, when people chanted my name in the streets. Many citizens of Timisoara knew me, I worked there for three and half years immediately after the famous ideological plenum when I was sent for "re-education" to Banat. The same happened here in Bucharest, when I appeared on television; on the afternoon on 22 December, after Ceausescu had escaped, everybody wanted me to go to the television studio and address the nation, and initiate the organization of the new authority's structure.

The spontaneous approval also happened when I appeared on the balcony of the Central Committee building and addressed the mass of people who were in the square.

Spontaneous Revolution

[Sarovic] All this spontaneity aside, was there some organized nucleus of resistance to Ceausescu's regime from which the Council of the National Salvation Front subsequently emerged?

[Iliescu] Nothing like that existed in Romania, nor could it have existed as an organized force. There were many

opposition groups and individuals, but a unifying organization to rally them and organize them into an opposition could simply not exist. There was much accumulated discontent from which sparks of opposition flew from time to time. Miners held a strike in the Jiu Valley in 1977, and workers held a strike in Brasov in 1987. Opposition and dissatisfaction with the regime was also expressed by some intellectuals in sending letters to foreign media. Then there was a group of foreign party officials who dared send an open letter to Ceausescu with their own view of the situation in Romania. There were also some attempts in the Army to form an opposition group, lead by former Defense Minister Ionita and General Militaru. Opposition was present in one way or another, therefore, but without being organized as a whole, it was unable to undertake anything specific.

[Sarovic] The majority of the members of the Committee of the National Salvation Front were former communists who were at variance with Ceausescu for various reasons. Was your platform the knowledge that the time of being a member of the Communist Party was the time of illusions, or something else?

[Iliescu] In contrast to the majority of other socialist countries, changes in Romania were not initiated within the party leadership itself. What happened in the Soviet Union, or some other socialist countries—where the process of reforms was initiated by the provinces or the party leadership itself— could have not happened in our country. We had a popular explosion in which all strata took part. This gave a radical character to our changes and the showdown with the previous system.

While founding the initial core of the Council of the National Salvation Front on 22 December, we wanted to rally together the people who were already known as the opposition. These were Alexandru Birladeanu, Corneliu Manescu, Silviu Brucan, Ana Blandiana, Ion Caramitru, Sergiu Nicolaescu, and some young people who were very active on 21 and 22 December. Among them was the current premier, Petre Roman, who led the polytechnic students on the eve of 21 December. This was therefore not done according to positions held in the previous party's hierarchy.

Losers Are Not Satisfied

[Sarovic] With the December events, Romania has stepped into a new epoch. What is actually new in Romania since "the December revolution?"

[Iliescu] One could say that everything is new. The entire being of Romanian society has been shaken by fundamental changes. First, we have put an end to a totalitarian political system and switched to a multiparty system. Political parties and various political groups have been organizing themselves since January. We decided to organize free elections and draft an election law which would establish the foundations of new relations in Romania. The very act of drafting the election law was a democratic process. We engaged a group of top experts, lawyers, to draft the first version of the election law, including several alternative constitutions for the new system. The draft of this law was formulated by representatives of all parties that have since emerged. At one time, there were as many as 90 people working on the definitions of every point of the draft law. The result of this work is a law which could be said to be the most democratic election law, compared with other similar documents, that exist in the world today.

[Sarovic] Since we are talking about elections, can one say that they were democratic from the point of view of the number of parties that took part in them? Yet, the opposition has not accepted the results of the elections as the objective will of the people. It is claimed that the elections were rigged. Are there any grounds for such claims?

[Iliescu] The losers are never satisfied. Objectively speaking, however, there are not grounds for questioning the regularity of the elections. In fact, dissatisfaction was expressed with both the elections and, even more so, the election campaign. The opposition does not like the results, but this is something else. In fact, their dissatisfaction is mostly directed toward the people who have not supported them. Otherwise, the elections were held under full control in accordance with the election law, at all levels. Representatives of the parties participating in the election were present in the Central Election Bureau and the election bureaus throughout the country. There was also a large number of foreign observers.

[Sarovic] The opposition is also complaining about the method of voting itself, the complexity of the voting.

[Iliescu] The method of voting was in fact proposed by the opposition. The first draft of the law prepared by experts, which was acceptable by us, envisaged a different formulation of the election procedure. According to this alternative, every constituency would elect one representative. During the public debate on the draft, the parties proposed a system of electoral lists. They proposed that a list of party candidates rather than individual candidates be voted on. So we organized constituencies according to the counties, that is to say, one constituency for each county. Every party proposed its own list of candidates. Thus, the electorate did not vote for a person, but for the entire list put forward by a party. This is a very complicated method of voting and the election of candidates. However, we accepted this principle in order to satisfy the newly founded parties. This suited them because they did not have people who were known by the public.

There was also some criticism of the election campaign. The opposition said that it did not have the same opportunities as the National Salvation Front to present themselves to the public. However, many supporters of the Front were of the view that the appearance of our party on the television, which is the main instrument of communicating with the electorate, was very modest. Considering that there were many parties, the television

proportionately divided the time for every party to present itself to the viewers.

So the Front, which enjoyed wide support of the people, was granted the same amount of time on television as other political groups who enjoyed the support of only few hundred people.

[Sarovic] The Front's Council held power, it had its government. Was this not a certain advantage in the election campaign?

[Iliescu] After 1 February, the first Council of the National Salvation Front, as a provisional organ of the state authority, was composed of the representatives of several parties. This was the Provisional National Unity Council, the so-called micro-parliament, representing the 30 or so parties which existed at that time. Representatives of different unions of peoples and minorities were in this council too. We operated with this structure of the council until elections. Meanwhile the number of parties rose to 80 and that of unions of minorities to 15. If the front did have any advantage, this was only an illusory advantage. It is true that the Council of the Front had already had its government since the end of December. However, the Front as a political formation was constituted in February. A number of those who became members of the Council in December went over to the opposition and the government in fact consisted of the people who did not join the Front. Generally speaking, the government is made up of experts, it is not formed according to the party membership criterion. Members of the government acted as state rather than party officials. For instance, the minister for labor was a member of the Liberal Party, the minister for culture was independent, and the minister for education had nothing to do with the Front and belongs to a right-oriented group for social dialogue. Besides, the government was trying to manage the country which was in a deep crisis, and therefore there is no great advantage being in power at the time of such an economic and social crisis.

Catching Up With Time

[Sarovic] In the world media, one can find accusations that many of the tense situations in the post-December Romania were created by the government itself in order to convince the people how dramatic the situation is.

[Iliescu] This is speculation by both internal and foreign forces which also launched the disinformation that the government itself set fire to the police station and the ministry of internal affairs, and attacked television. This is funny. How would the creation of such complications be in the interest of the government?

[Sarovic] The economic situation in Romania that you inherited could be said to be catastrophic. In the last few months, it has even deteriorated. How do you plan to induce development knowing that financial aid from abroad is uncertain?

[Iliescu] We are giving top priority to the economic measures which would simultaneously facilitate the functioning of market laws and provide regulations for the legal framework.

Therefore, on the one hand, we want to organize a legal system which would affirm the basic principles of a market economy, including some privatization and investment of foreign capital, and on the other hand, modernize technology and restructure the economy, particularly industry. This amounts to joining the current trends in technological achievements.

[Sarovic] You will need money for all this. Where will it come from? Our view is that the West is quite miserly toward you.

[Iliescu] In order to attract foreign capital, we have already prepared the laws which will, we believe, encourage foreign capital. Unfortunately, this also depends on improving political relations with the West. At present, the climate is unfavorable, and from this point of view, the opposition has not been playing a fair game toward the country. It is encouraging reservations or hostility toward Romania. The opposition's calculations are simple: Since it did not succeed in the direct confrontation during the last elections, it is now resorting to other forms of struggle. On the one hand, it is using our present economic difficulties, which we will continue to have, and is stoking dissatisfaction among the people, and on the other, it is delaying the development of relations with the owners of capital in order to hinder us in the process of restructuring the virtually destroyed economy. They are doing all this so that they can say that "these authorities and this government are not able to solve our problems," and in this way prepare the ground for future elections.

[Sarovic] Could early elections take place?

[Iliescu] We have two years to prepare a new constitution. The newly elected parliament has the role of a constituent parliament. This parliament should also promulgate the constitution. We have about 18 months to accomplish this, and after that, new elections could be organized. Therefore, we have about two years, but the opposition does not have patience and will do its utmost to create an unstable situation in this period. On our part, we will do our utmost to attract all forces to the platform of national interests. All political parties of this country should equally be interested in finding a way out of the crisis. The problem of rescuing the country should be the prime objective of every citizen of Romania. We have appealed for party interests to be overcome and for all efforts to be united in solving the serious crisis. In accordance with the regulations of the election law, I, as president, left the party which supported me; I left the National Salvation Front, and I am trying to contribute to national reconciliation concerning all issues which would create a cohesive platform of all national forces.

The Reign of Sloppiness

[Sarovic] Mr. President, as much as I have succeeded in penetrating the present state of the mind of the Romanian people, I think that you will have the greatest problems in finding a formula for persuading your people to work. It is obvious that sloppiness has taken reign over all sectors of Romanian society.

[Iliescu] You are right. There are many people who would want to get more, but work as little as possible. Some trade union leaders have also appeared with demagogic stories about the need to reduce the working hours, but we appeal to all and tell both the workers and the trade union leaders that the fundamental problem for us is to introduce the spirit of work and discipline in our life.

[Sarovic] The inefficiency of economic operations is one of the basic causes of the collapse of the system in the socialist countries. In the opinion of many people, this inefficiency has been provoked by the unresolved problem of ownership. In Romania, all the property is in the hands of the state. Do you intend to begin any processes of reprivatization of the means of production?

[Iliescu] In any case, we must find the necessary levers for the development of initiative, including private initiative. However, the problem is not simple, because privatization cannot be an aim in itself. A people cannot be transformed overnight into a people of bosses, owners of the means of production. The great majority of the people must be those who work and produce. The ownership regime is a very complicated problem. We have begun with the introduction of elements of privatization in the economy, above all in agriculture. Out of 10 million hectares of cultivable land, we have already distributed a significant portion for the peasants to own, and 75 percent of this land is owned by cooperatives that also belong to the peasants. We want these state farms to become units of large-scale production and to promote modern technology in agriculture. The cooperatives are based on a free decision of peasants, collective and group owners. In hilly and mountainous regions, we have abolished unprofitable cooperatives, and the peasants have divided the land among themselves. In the plains in the south of the country, the peasants did not want to abolish the cooperatives.

[Sarovic] Excuse me, but I will now ask a question that is perhaps unpleasant: Romania is above all an agricultural country, but its people are short of food. What is going on?

[Iliescu] Unfortunately it is so. This is because of the poor administration imposed by the former centralized system of managing agriculture and the undefined status of cooperatives. Land was not owned by the peasants, but state organs decided what was to be done and produced and how.

[Sarovic] Will the measures that you are taking ensure the production of enough goods so that the proclaimed laws of the market could function?

[Iliescu] In agriculture, matters will develop faster and more simply. Even now we have a year that promises well, and peasants work more and better. The measures that we have taken are yielding the first results. In industry, the situation is more complicated because the structure of industry is very uneconomical and we have to cope with a bad legacy. The iron and steel industry is excessively large [dimenzionirana], and we have to import large quantities of iron ore and coke, which worsens our balance of payments. The petrochemicals industry was also developed without a proper measure, three times above our own oil reserves. This is the second great burden on Romania's foreign trade balance. Under such conditions, we have no foreign exchange reserves left that would ensure the technological renewal of the rest of the industry. All the efforts invested in the past years to liquidate the foreign debt were made at the expense of technological progress in the Romanian economy in general. Therefore the situation is very complicated. Be that as it may, we have a number of problems in all the industry, ranging from providing production materials for the production process and the utilization of capacities up to the improvement of work conditions.

Property—State and Private

Regarding privatization, it will also be present in industry, primarily in small production units and in the sphere of services, which are a much neglected sector in our country. In large industry, we will work in two ways. The infrastructure sector, the heavy industry, energy, transportation, and communications are to be organized as state enterprises, and in other sectors of industry, they will be organized as joint-stock enterprises. It will be a long and painful period of restructuring which will inevitably entail some social stratification.

The first experiences connected with privatization measures show unfavorable results. Parasite elements are appearing in large numbers. They take the products of state enterprises and, exploiting the shortage of goods on the market, speculate with them, striving to get rich quickly without any effort. We are now drafting a law that will strictly punish speculators. We wish to encourage private initiative that would get production going and enrich the market, improving supply to the population.

[Sarovic] You have stated yourself that market relations in the economy will lead to social stratification. Bearing in mind the poverty of the majority of the Romanian people, this could mean the creation of a deep social chasm between the rich minority and the poor majority, which could lead to conflicts between these strata. Do you fear the possibility of social disorders breaking out?

[Iliescu] Yes. This is one of the real dangers facing us. Some of those people who gather and protest in the streets also consider the possibility of such a situation.

[Sarovic] You have spoken about relations with foreign countries. What are your relations with the USSR?

[Iliescu] The USSR is our largest neighbor, and national interests have always dictated to us that we have good relations with this country, and continue to do so. Unfortunately, the present social and political disorders in the USSR and instability there are a negative factor that causes concern not only in the USSR but also in the international field. We who live on the USSR border are undoubtedly preoccupied with the course of the development of events in that great country.

[Sarovic] In fact, the process of changes in East European countries has begun with Gorbachev. Are you convinced that perestroyka will succeed?

[Iliescu] As one can see, matters develop with difficulties, and this is no accident. It is a matter of a large system which in essence has greater inertia. Even countries which are much smaller implement changes with difficulty. What complicates the matters in the USSR even more are certainly the national relations. Ignoring the national factor in the past decades has shown itself to be a great mistake that has left great complications. This certainly is one of the great difficulties in the USSR at this moment.

Better Life for the Serbs

[Sarovic] Speaking about the national problem, Mr. President, the next question imposes itself: The Serbian minority in Romania and the Romanian in Yugoslavia have for months been a bridge of friendship and of permeation of cultures of the two peoples. In the postwar period, the Serbs in Romania have passed through grave tribulations. What will your government do on qualitatively improving the position of the Serbian and the Croatian minorities in Romania?

[Iliescu] In the first place, we have undertaken political measures that have ensured full freedom of expression to all the national minorities. We have ensured the participation in the parliament of the representatives of all the national minorities, regardless of the results of the elections. The Hungarians, for instance, who are a significant minority, have 29 deputies and 12 senators. The other minorities that did not secure any representatives in the parliament through direct voting, obtained seats in it automatically. As regards the Serbs and the Croats, they have their organizations, and they are also represented in the parliament. Of course, they had a difficult period, especially after 1948 when the organs of the authorities behaved toward the Serbs in a hostile and unjust way and when the Serbs lived under fierce pressure. After 1958, matters improved somewhat, but not completely. The relations between our peoples have always been good. We have had no conflicts in the course of history. Specific solidarity and mutual sympathies have always existed between our peoples. This has influenced the relations between the Romanians and the Serbs and the Croats in the internal field. I have worked in Banat and I had very good relations with the Serbs. They are very hard working and diligent people. I had some friends among them.

[Sarovic] Officially, the Serbian minority has not been without rights in Romania, but practical life has been quite different. Are there indeed better days to come for the Serbs in Romania? Are some specific measures of support and of help to revive the spiritual activities of our minorities envisaged? Will you help in the reconstruction of churches and other Serbian cultural monuments, as well as cultural activities in the villages with Serbian and Croatian population?

[Iliescu] We definitely and openly want to support all these activities because the development of the cultural and spiritual life of all the national minorities essentially enriches the life of Romanian society. This is the way we look on the presence of the national minorities as an integral part of Romanian society. We are endeavoring to enrich each other by the majority living together with the minority. As far as opportunities allow, we will help the progress of Serbs in Romania.

[Sarovic] The idea and offer has come from Kosovo that if the Serbs in Romania want to, they can come and settle in this Yugoslav province. This would in some way mean a return to the hearths of their forefathers. How do you view this idea?

[Iliescu] This is a problem of each individual's personal opinion. We are not depriving anyone of the right to go where they want to, if they want to, but neither are we encouraging anyone to leave the country. Therefore, we consider Serbs in Romania as equal citizens of our country, and their history is here, on the land of the Banat. However, if there is someone who personally wants to go somewhere else, no one will stop them.

[Sarovic] Yugoslav-Romanian relations have been described for years as "friendly and good." It is now evident that the basic characteristic of these relations consisted of the relationship between two men and was expressed by the winning of points with their hunting trophies. How do you view the future development of Yugoslav-Romanian relations?

[Iliescu] I think that the common interests that affect the life of our peoples, and that are based on the interests of our countries, are essential. We are neighboring countries. In the economic context, there is a broad spectrum of possibilities for the development of relations and cooperation in the process of reviving our economies. The processes of economic reform are complex in both our countries. The exchange of the common experience and views of experts can help us a lot. You perhaps have richer experience as regards relations on the international market. Your experience—both positive and negative—is very important for our experts, economists, and managers. We can find ways to cooperate which are

to our mutual advantage. Furthermore, we can eliminate, with your agreement, the elements of formalism and pomposity that have dominated in the past and were an end in themselves. Interest is now much greater. In the political context, I think that we have a wide arena for cooperation regarding joint activities, primarily in the region where we live together, but also in the European and world setting. I see, therefore, a good future for the development of our relations in all areas.

[The following passages appear boxed within the body of the item]

Use of the Miners

What really happened in the middle of June on the square in front of the university in Bucharest? Our interviewee said:

"Dissatisfied with their position after the elections, parts of the opposition had been constantly stirring up revolt and unrest. This was a group of the most militant individuals—which never compromised more than 2,000 people—and which included, from time to time, emissaries of the opposition groups and parties, as well as delinquents including fugitives running from the law, bandits, and other dregs of society whose only aim was to cause chaos. In this respect, their aims corresponded to those of the opposition; they wanted to use the resultant anarchy to bring down the legal authorities that had just been elected in free elections. What was happening there no longer had anything to do with democracy, not even with the kind that is usually called street democracy. The situation was such that the state had to react. We had to break them up in order to prevent a greater evil."

Replying to the question of whether such severity was necessary to disperse the demonstrators and whether the miners had to be called upon to clash with them, Ion Iliescu said:

"The miners came on their own initiative out of solidarity with the citizens of Bucharest and the desire to help the newly-elected authorities. None of the state officials asked the miners for help. After all, they went into action the day after the police had intervened, once the outcome was already quite certain. The fact is: They came, they participated in dispersing the demonstrators, and the situation was as it was. However, despite the fact that I cannot condemn their intentions, I must say that this action by the miners did great harm to us—particularly regarding international public opinion.

"There was quite a lot of manipulation in the rest of the world regarding the number of dead, but, in fact, there were six deaths. Even though only one victim was a unique tragedy, the fact is: Out of the tens, and even hundreds, of deaths that have been mentioned, no more than six people died. It is my duty to mention that all six died on the first day, when the police intervened. It should not be forgotten that many of the demonstrators were armed. Many different kinds of arms were discovered; therefore, not one demonstrator died in the action by the miners. I can reliably state that. The very fact that the miners came and participated in dispersing the demonstrators, and that they felt compelled to come and resolve the situation in their own way, shows the great weaknesses of the state organs responsible for preserving law and order, whose task was to primarily prevent the kind of situation that occured."

Four Attempted Coups d'Etat

A considerable part of the interview with President Iliescu was devoted to circumstances in Romania immediately following the December events.

"Once the dictatorship had been brought down, our aim was to offer the people real freedom and democracy. We soon became aware, however, of the danger of the possibility of anarchy and chaos prevailing in the country. Therefore, one of our main tasks was to provide order, peace, and a free life for our citizens. Nevertheless, some forces in the country, with support from outside, did their best to destabilize the new authorities, and the country as a whole. Their aim was not democracy and citizens' freedom, nor free elections, which would decide the future of Romania; their primary concern was the acquisition of power at all costs. The creation of anarchy and a chaotic situation would have given them to seize power with someone else's help. They constantly organized meetings—attended by few people—aimed at destabilizing the country."

In response to the comment that a group of several hundred people cannot affect the stability of the country, the Romanian president said:

"Of course not. The protests by these small groups, however, were not the aim in themselves. The aim was to stir up the peoples' dissatisfaction with the present poor quality of life in Romania. Let me recall, Romanians have the lowest standard of living in Europe; this means that demonstrating was not the only thing in which they were involved. There have been four attempted coups d'etat since 22 December—carried out under the guise of street demonstrations—which were obviously only a cover for the real goal. One attempted coup took place at the end of January, there were two in February, and the last one was on 13 June which had a dramatic denouement on the square in front of the university in the center of Bucharest."

Securitate's Links To Terrorist Group Denied

AU1608175190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1645 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/8/1990—The Romanian former Securitate had no links with any terrorist organization from or in connection with Italy announced on Thursday the press office of the Ministry of the Interior which denied assessments that the former Securitate had any connection with Licio Geli, head of the P2 Masonic Lodge, which it considers mere speculations.

A communique refers to the checks made by the Ministry of the Interior, at the request of the Italian authorities after the broadcasting by the Italian television of a special programme on the links between the CIA and the terrorist groups in Italy with references to the existence of ties between the latter and the former secret services of the East European countries.

Roman Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Shortages

AU1608193990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1817 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/8/1990—During a meeting held on Thursday morning at the government headquarters, Prime Minister Petre Roman surveyed, together with decision-makers at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Trade and Tourism, the supply of the population with farm food produce in August and the period left until the end of the year. He took into consideration the deficiencies manifested in the production and distribution networks.

A communique of the meeting shows that a survey was taken of the prospects of ensuring the necessary quantities of flour, bread, sugar, edible oil, meat and meat preparations, vegetables, fruit, canned food; emphasis was placed on the obligations and responsibilities incumbent on the persons, institutions, and departments involved in this activity. Specific measures were set for the materialization of the projects regarding the construction of local mills and bakeries; for the transportation of farm food produce from counties to the capital city on the basis of the conventions in force; for the manufacture by the Brasov truck works and the "Autobuzul" ["The Bus"] enterprise of special transport means for small trading units to carry bread and frozen food; for a more efficient utilization of transport means, the manufacture of packages by the relevant industry; for the production of flour and its sale to the population; the setting up of a group in charge with the promotion of trade management; the fabrication of canned food in compliance with international standards. The government discussed and approved a project concerning a harmonious distribution of meat preparations, in consideration of the existing quantities of meat, following a better technological processing of this basic product.

The measures set are designed—in the opinion of those present—to improve the supply of these products to the population.

Prosecutor General Meets 'League for Justice'

AU1608175990 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1554 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/8/1990—Mr. Gheorghe Robu, Romania's prosecutor general, met Messrs. Ioan Iacob, Gheorghe Daescu and M. Stanculescu, leaders of the "League for Justice," at the headquarters of the Prosecutor General's Office.

They made a detailed analysis of aspects related to the cooperation between the Prosecutor's Office and the League for Justice, as an apolitical, non-governmental organization that fights to correct the injustice done to its members in the years of communist dictatorship, all while militating for the reinstitution of a state of law in Romania.

That cooperation was shown to lead to the correction of the injustice done in the years of dictatorship, to the strengthening of the sense of justice in this country and, implicitly, to a positive change in Romania's image in the world.

Ceausescu Sister's Trial Continues

AU1608200890 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1846 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Bucharest ROMPRES, 16/8/1990—Another session in the trial of Maria Agache, Nicolae Ceausescu's sister was held on Thursday.

The defendant's lawyers asked for a medico-legal check, on the grounds that she complained about the worsening of some chronic diseases. This would justify her being tried without being detained.

The prosecution objected and the objection was sustained as there is no report from the Jilava penitentiary hospital concerning the defendant's ailments and the treatments she underwent.

During this session a number of witnesses were heard, ex- "colleagues" of the defendant, in relation to the fact that over two years she collected 580,000 lei from "Electromagnetica" factory as pay for the fictitious job of reeler foreman.

She is also charged with using unlawful pressure to facilitate, for money and other material compensations, the acquisition of various durables.

The cause was adjourned till September 13 when the hearing of the witnesses is to be resumed.

Effects of Kuwaiti Crisis Continue To Be Felt

Nationals Continue To Leave Iraq

LD1608195290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1752 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—So far, 263 Yugoslavs have been transported by air from Iraq to Yugoslavia via Jordan, while the arrival of another group of Yugoslavs is expected in Belgrade later on Thursday [16 August], Yugoslav Government spokesman, Ambassador Ivo Vajgl told a news conference at the Yugoslav Secretariat for Foreign Affairs on Thursday.

He said all competent services—diplomtic, economic and transportation—have been placed in a state of full mobility and, although working in difficult conditions, are cooperating very well.

Vajgl said that, due to problems in supplying Yugoslavs in Iraq with food, as there are already shortages of certain articles, certain transit countries have been contacted to assist such transports.

Yugoslav services are considering the possibility of evacuating its nationals through other channels, since special flights from Amman are delayed due to the heavy traffic at Amman's airport.

A bus with 36 Yugoslavs, mainly women and children from a construction site some 300 km inside Iraq, crossed into Turkey on Thursday, as set out at the conference. They will be transported to Yugoslavia by air.

Also, the Yugoslav Government will send a representative of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy to Iraq and Kuwait to contact the Yugoslav enterprises there and, if necessary, the corresponding local authorities.

Message Received From Kuwaiti Envoy

LD1608165390 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1547 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia has undertaken a number of measures and established a permanent dialogue with the non-aligned and other countries and international institutions with the aim of reaching a solution to the Gulf crisis, which broke out after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, Yugoslav Foreign Ministry spokesman ambassador Ivo Vajgl said here today.

Vajgl told a regular press conference that, apart from the recent statements by federal organs, Yugoslavia will issue a new statement on the latest developments in the Gulf crisis. The statement will reflect both Yugoslavia's stands and those stemming from its obligations as chairman of the non-aligned movement, he said.

The content of the statement will be formed in consultation with the other members of the movement and in keeping with the non-aligned countries' stand on the resolution of problems "through constructive methods which will not create the polarization of the members," Vajgl said.

He confirmed that Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar had received two messages from his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq 'Aziz. The messages do not contain anything more than what Iraq has already said about its reasons for the invasion.

Vajgl said that an emmisary of Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah expected to arrive in Yugoslavia shortly with messages for the federal government and presidency.

The spokesman said that Yugoslavia's consultations with other countries are approaching the clearcut stand that only the United Nations can be authorized for imposing sanctions against Iraq.

Vajgl reiterated the Yugoslav stand which advocates only those solutions which would exclude the use of force and include efficient international coordination for a peaceful settlement in the conflict.

Blockade Causing 'Financial Problems'

LD1608161990 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1507 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Belgrade, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia is implementing the U.N. Security Council 661 resolution on sanctions against Iraq because of its invasion of Kuwait at the speed and under circumstances realistically possible, Yugoslav Government official spokesman Ivo Vajgl set out here on Thursday [16 August].

At a regular press conference, Vajgl told newsmen "Yugoslavia does not export arms and military equipment to Iraq, nor does it carry out economic and financial activity embraced by the U.N. sanctions," proclaimed immediately after Iraqi invasion on the neighboring country in early August.

Ambassador Vajgl, however, notes that Yugoslavia has significant economic interests in Iraq so that the implmentation of sanctions, to a certain degree, produces financial problems in a situation when the national economy already experiences certain difficulties. Oil deliveries from Iraq are a specific manner of debt repayment by Iraq to Yugoslavia, he said.

Yugoslavia has been maintaining contacts with all relevant international financial institutions and informed them of these facts and will ask for discussions which could facilitate its obligations to others, Ambassador Vajgl said.

According to the Belgrade daily POLITIKA, the current value of the work performed by Yugoslav enterprises in Iraq and Iraq's debt to Yugoslavia amount to around $2.4 billion.

Referendum on Serbian Autonomy To Begin 19 Aug

LD1608201890 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1906 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Dvor na Uni, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—The Serbian National Council [Srpsko Nacionalno Vece], at a session held today in Dvor na Uni, discussed and endorsed a report "of the legitimate delegation of the Serbian nation in Croatia which held talks with SFRY Presidency President Borislav Jovic."

In a special statement the Serbian National Council said that the decision of the constitutional court of Croatia on halting the work of the community of municipalities of northern Dalmatia and southern Lika does not accord with the Constitution of the SFRY, and that, being unconstitutional, it is not binding on them. The council, therefore, recommends that the municipalities to which this decision was delivered should begin proceedings in the constitutional court of the SFRY.

On the basis of item four of the declaration on the sovereignty and autonomy of the Serbian nation in Croatia, Article 157 of the SFRY Constitution, and Article 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of Croatia, the Serbian National Council today adopted a decision on holding a referendum (plebiscite) of the Serbian nation in Croatia on Serbian autonomy from 19 August to 2 September 1990. The referendum will be carried out on the basis of the recently published declaration on the sovereignty and autonomy of the Serbian nation in Croatia. The referendum will be held in local communities or villages in which Serbs form the majority, and in other places where Serbs live in Croatia.

As the decision states, the right to vote in the referendum belongs to every Serb over the age of 18 who is either a resident of Croatia, a Serb born on the territory of the Republic of Croatia, or a Serb holding Croat citizenship but living outside the territory of the republic.

The holding of the referendum will be entrusted to special committees in local communities and villages elected at public meetings. The referendum will be organized by the central commission for holding the referendum consisting of Sergej Veselinovic (chairman) and members Dusan Vjestica and Velibor Mtijasevic.

The results of the referendum, which will be collected by the central commission, will be announced by the Serbian National Council. This decision, it is stated, has also been sent to the Assembly of the Republic of Croatia.

Montenegro People's Party Lends Support to Serbs

LD1608195190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1301 GMT 16 Aug 90

[Text] Titograd, 16 Aug (TANJUG)—The People's Party from Montenegro considers it its moral, national, and historical obligation to side with Serbs in Croatia if it comes to physical confrontation during the announced referendum on cultural autonomy, today's statement of the party's main committee says.

The leadership of the People's Party hails the herioc Knin area, hoping that it will warn by its resoluteness and unity the Republic of Croatia not to take measures against Serbian rights which are reinforced by the will of God and historically justified.

We congratulate you in advance on your successful referendum and wish that a continuous harmony of state, political, and cultural system will be established in the Republic of Croatia, concludes the statement of the main committee of the People's Party, which is based, according to the statement, in Podgorica [prewar name for Titograd].

Deputy Defense Minister Defends Army's Integrity

AU1608161390 Sarajevo OSLOBODJENJE in Serbo-Croatian 12 Aug 90 p 10

[Unattributed TANJUG report: "One Wants To Break Up Yugoslavia Via the Yugoslav People's Army"]

[Text] Gornji Skrad, 11 Aug—At the celebration of the 49th anniversary of the formation of the Skrad partisan unit in Gornji Skrad in Kordun today, Colonel General Simeon Buncic, deputy federal secretary for national defense, said, among other things, the following:

"The brunt of our criticism is directed toward social regression, anarchy, and lawlessness; toward the abuse of democracy and the manipulation of feelings, interests, and the will of the people; toward bullying and warmongering policies and the practice of certain shortsighted leaders and their blind followers." He also said:

"We categorically reject the invented theses that the Army is a conservative and dogmatic force, that it is resisting positive social changes, that it represents an obstacle to democratic processes and a threat to our peoples right to independently and freely make decisions concerning their fate.

"We often hear objections from those who are bothered by the Army that the people in the Yugoslav People's Army are still living in their own enclosed world, that they do not realize the proper content and dynamics of social processes, and that they are making mistakes in their political moves. Let these people live in the illusion that the Yugoslav People's Army can be compromised in this way and that it can be thrown off balance."

According to Buncic, the entire development of events in our country confirms that our knowledge, appraisal, and measures are well-founded. The citizens of Yugoslavia can be sure that the Yugoslav People's Army, in accordance with its role in society, will always behave in an exemplary way: reasonably, clearly, and resolutely.

Buncic said that the Army and the changes in its internal organization and its place and role in society can, and must be, discussed. We are continuously searching for more progressive and modern solutions. In the contemporary world, this is done in a tolerant, properly argued, and civilized manner, taking into consideration the entirety of the country's social and political organization, rather than in a sporadic, partial, and bullying way.

A republican organ cannot unilaterally adopt a decision to change the recruiting system without simultaneously affecting the entire concept of the location of garrisons and the composition of peacetime forces, and without affecting the operational plans on the use of the Army and all other organizational-formational and doctrinal-operational concepts concerning the development and organization of the Army, Buncic warned.

This move, he said, reveals the far-reaching intentions of those behind it, and deserves not only public condemnation, but also resolute measures to prevent it. Preventing such moves is not only a matter of personal will on the part of some military or state organ, but a social obligation and the prime duty.

The Yugoslav People's Army will use all available forces, the means and methods determined by the SFRY Constitution, and the law to oppose all attempts to break it up and divide it. We are doing this, and will be doing it, not only because of the Army as such, but, above all, because of the unequivocal knowledge that attempts are being made to break up Yugoslavia via the Army. This cannot, and must not, be permitted, General Buncic said.

The people in the Yugoslav People's Army are concerned, not without reason, about the situation in which our country has found itself, but are optimistic about Yugoslavia's survival and prosperity. The dominant view is that Yugoslavia and the idea of Yugoslavia significantly exceeds all nationalistic views, and that they are fully in conformity with European and world integrational processes, concluded Colonel General Simeon Buncic, deputy foreign secretary for defense.

Slovene Poll on Foreign Political Activities

AU1608175990

[Editorial Report] Ljubljana NEODVISNI DNEVNIK in Slovene on 4 August on pages one and three carries a 1,000-word report by Pavel Gantar on a public opinion poll on foreign political activities of the Slovene government, conducted by Varianta in Slovenia, under the title "'Roving Politics' in the Eyes of the Public." The date of the poll is not given, and the sample is not defined.

The results of the poll are presented in three tables as presented below. The figures are percentages, as published:

Table 1:

[all figures as published]

"On the basis of the information at your disposal, could you say that Slovene foreign political activities:

	Yes	Neither yes nor no	No	Do not know
"strengthen the sovereignty of Slovenia in the world"	43.6	28.9	18.5	9.1
"encourage investment of foreign capital and foreign economic aid"	44.3	20.1	22.1	13.4
"better link Slovenes abroad and emigrants with their motherland"	72.8	13.1	7.4	6.7
"strengthen the respect for Slovenia abroad"	50.0	26.5	14.4	9.1
"advance regional cooperation within the Alps-Adriatic group"	64.1	18.1	7.0	10.7

Table 2:

"Lojze Peterle, president of the Republican Executive Council, visited several foreign countries recently (Austria, Italy, the United States, the Vatican). Concerning these visits, are you:

1—"sufficiently informed"	34.2
2—"informed just right"	43.3
3—"too much information about these trips"	12.4
4—do not know, undecided	10.1

Table 3:

"Do you think that Peterle, president of the Republican Executive Council, travels abroad:

1—"not enough"	4.4
2—"just right"	33.2
3—"too much"	52.7
4—do not know, have no opinion	9.7